

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Friday, May 26 – Saturday, May 27, 2023

Spring 2023 Meeting Workbook

Dreaming Dreams

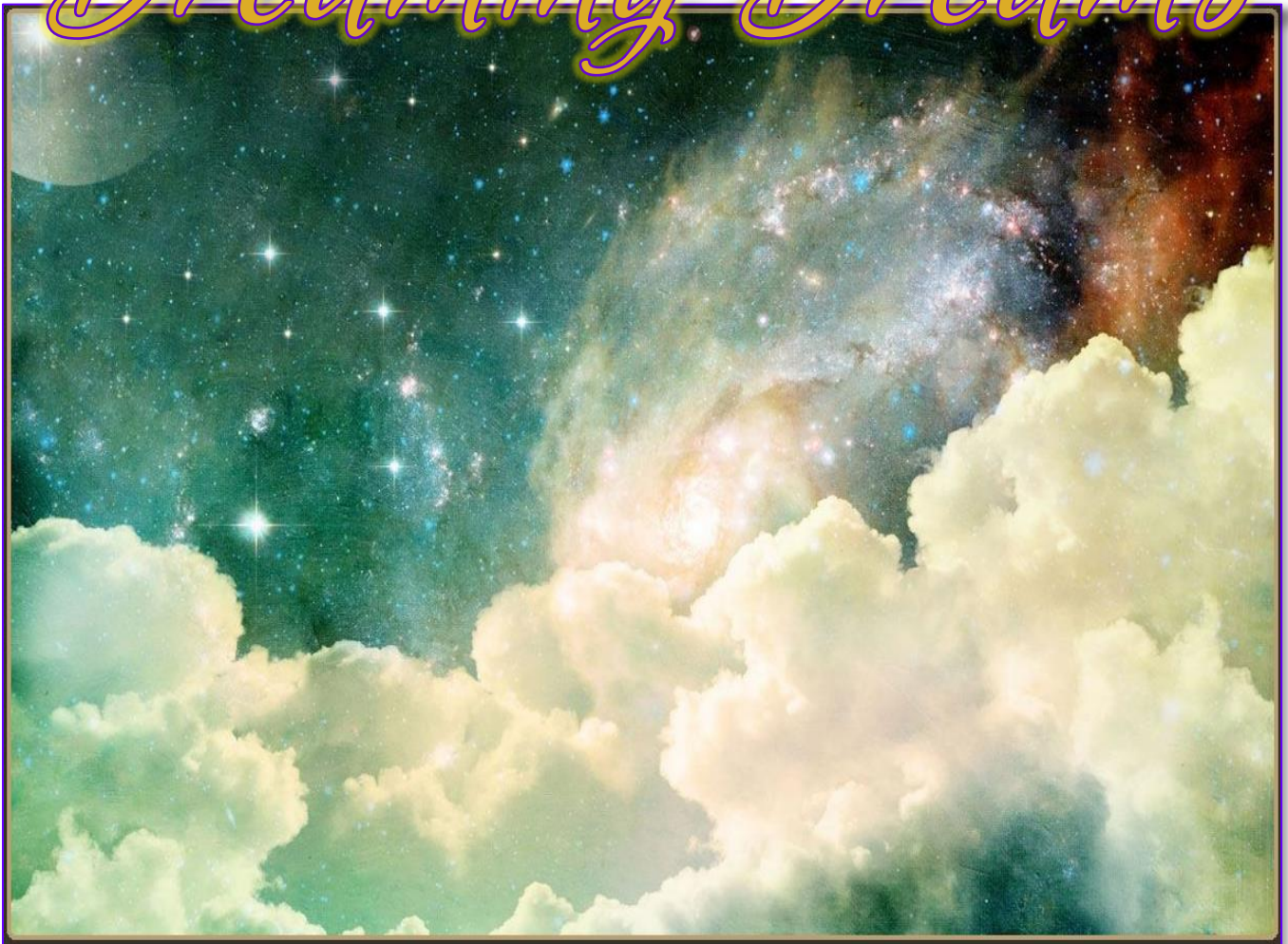


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Workbook Introduction

THEME

Dreaming Dreams

PURPOSE

Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

PRIORITIES

Assessment	Mission & Support
Congregational Support/Pastoral Relations	Right Relations
Communication	Camps/Youth/Faith Formation
Connections	Chaplaincy

Format and Process: Decision Making

The format for proposals involves three distinct stages in the decision-making process:

1. Listening/learning;
2. Discussion;
3. Decision.

In our proceedings, the steps will be:

1. The Presenter will outline:
 - a. What is the issue? And,
 - b. The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.
2. The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.
3. The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal and will determine whether there is support for these.
4. Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

Holy Manners

The following acronym offers us a way to have faith-filled conversations on important topics.

For our time together, we commit to being brave by ...

Being accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence

Reflecting on and naming our own biases

Actively listening

Vocalizing questions that arise from our learning

Encountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder

***A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer.
It sings because it has a song.***

Maya Angelou



Participation in a Virtual Meeting

The regional council meeting has a simultaneous in-person and on-line meeting and we are learning how to ensure that participants can engage fully however they are joining.

If joining by Zoom, please review the following. How Zoom presents depends upon the device being used. Every participant is expected to know:

- 1) How to **mute** and **unmute** themselves;
- 2) How to turn their **video on** and **off**;
- 3) How to **rename themselves**;
- 4) How to **raise their hand**.

If you are not familiar with these options, there are zoom information tips on our website at: [Zoom resources](#).

Please ensure you have updated to the latest version of Zoom. Otherwise, some meeting options might not work for you.

Waiting Room

When you first log into the meeting, you will be placed in a waiting room. As soon as the meeting is ready to start, you will be automatically admitted.

Participants

When you are admitted to the meeting, please go immediately to the **Participants list**. You will see your name listed BUT sometimes you are identified by the type of device you are using. The President will be recognizing people on the basis of the name that is shown. So, please change your name to read **First Name/Surname** by hovering over the mic and camera icons, click on **More**, then **Rename**.

*For example, Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann's iPhone might read: C-A's iPhone. Cheryl-Ann would need to go to the **Participant list** and **change her name** to: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (she/her). All participants are encouraged to **add their pronouns** after their name.*

Those who are at the meeting as a guest (not a voting participant) please add an x in front of your name. THIS IS IMPORTANT IF YOU ARE A NON-VOTING GUEST.

For example, if Cheryl-Ann was a guest, she would write her name as:

x-Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. This helps us with vote counting.

Mute

All participants will be automatically muted when they enter the meeting. Please ensure your microphone remains off. This reduces background noise and feedback and improves the quality of sound for everyone.

You will need to click on the **Mute** button to turn on your microphone if you are recognized by the President to speak in debate and when you move into breakout rooms.

Video

Please have your video on as you join the meeting! It is lovely to see everyone as the meeting begins. Once the meeting begins, please turn off your video. That way, you have some privacy if you move around and are not in danger of sharing unintentionally. This also helps with the stability of the Zoom call especially in places with unstable internet.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

There may be times when the President wishes to informally poll the regional council concerning a proposed change. The President may ask for a thumbs up or thumbs down. These two icons are found under reactions.

Being recognized to speak

To be recognized to speak in the discussion time, first **please raise your hand** by clicking on the button labeled **Raise Hand**. Your digital hand will then be raised. The Zoom host will draw the President's attention to your hand. The hand will be lowered by the meeting hosts after you have spoken.

Remember when the President calls you by name to:

1. **Unmute** your microphone
2. Turn on **video**
3. **State your name**; and
4. Your **community of faith** – be sure to add the location as we have a few Trinity United Churches, Emmanuel United Churches, St. John's United Churches ...

Voting

This will be explained in the meeting. If you are a guest, please remember you do not vote.

Chat Box

Please reserve the chat box for the following:

1. Questions of **clarification**;
2. **Procedural concerns** and questions;
3. **Matters of privilege** (for example someone uses a term that is insulting to another who then wishes to bring that to the President's attention re the conduct of the council).

Many of us have experience of meetings where the chat box served as the discussion space, which in fact turns it into commentary. Discussion happens among participants when the President recognizes the speaker. The Chat Box is a side conversation that is distracting and disruptive.

If you see a friend among the participants with whom you wish to chat, please feel free to **send a private message** to them. Go to Participants, enter their name or scroll to their name & click on it and then you can send them a private note!

Breakout Rooms

Participants will be invited to move into a breakout room at various times during the meeting. To join the breakout room, participants must accept the **join invitation**. Once you enter the breakout room, unmute your microphone and turn on your video.

Section One: Check-In

President Mark Laird's Message

Dreaming Dreams

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to your Spring Meeting 2023 workbook for Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. There is something different about this year's book and meeting there is an in-person option!!! I'm so excited to see all those who have registered to attend the meeting in-person! It is also very exciting that we can offer a hybrid meeting for those who are unable to be in-person, yet still want to take part in our important time together of learning, growing and decision-making.

After all, it does take all of us to make our regional council work.

WE ARE WOW!!!!

There are some important conversations that will be taking place in our time together around the upcoming remit, about recruitment models for our regional council and some learning together about different ways we, as communities of faith, are leaning into Bold Discipleship, Deep Spirituality and Daring Justice. Thank you for taking the time to read the workbook and be as prepared as you can be for our time together.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President and am excited that for this final meeting as President, I get to finally have one with an in-person element.

Come ready to join in the singing, the worship, the celebration, the reconnecting and the learning as we move with the Spirit in these days ahead.

Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

Blessings,



Mark Laird

President, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

As at May 2023
In Memoriam

Rev. W. Dale Allison OM
Rev. Helen Hume OM
Rev. Valerie Joyce Reed OM
Rev. Jason Richards OM
Rev. Kenneth J. Welch OM

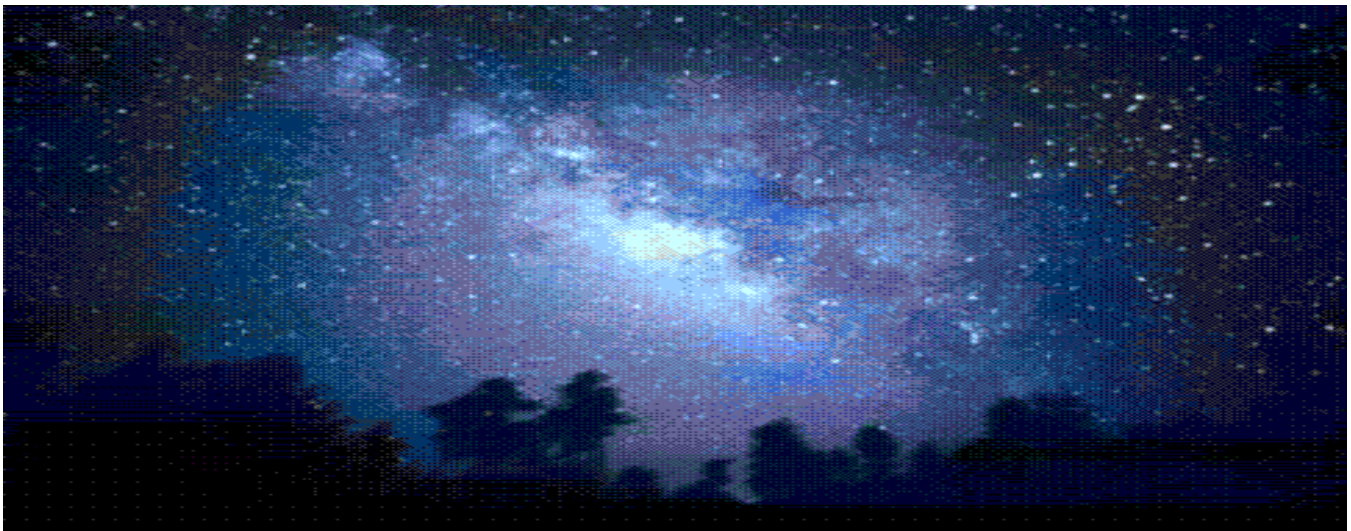


Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes

Amalgamation

Christ the King United Church and St. James-Rosemount United Church, Kitchener
Amalgamated as St. James-Rosemount United Church, Kitchener

Many blessings as these communities of faith continue their ministries together





Jubilands and Anniversaries

We celebrate the anniversaries of Ordination, Admission, Commissioning & Recognition

<p><i>5 Years</i> Anita Rowland, DM Kenneth Whiting, OM</p> <p><i>10 Years</i> Nancy Knowles, OM John Neff, OM Margaret Ruggles, DM Sheryl Spencer, OM</p> <p><i>15 Years</i> Kathy Douglas, DM Elaine Strawbridge, OM Valerie Vande Wiele, OM</p> <p><i>20 Years</i> Catherine Paul, OM Janet Sinclair, OM Kathryn Wreford, OM</p> <p><i>25 Years</i> Susan Campbell, OM Heather Davies, OM Keith Reynolds, OM Johanna VanderSpek, OM</p> <p><i>30 Years</i> Jennifer Stephens, OM</p> <p><i>35 Years</i> John Benham, OM Bruce Dickson, OM Cathy Larmond, OM Gwen Nicol-Macdonald, OM</p>	<p><i>40 Years</i> Thomas Bandy, OM Randy Banks, OM William Bruce, OM David Jones, OM Sandra McLauchlan-Abuja, OM Neil Parker, OM Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, OM</p> <p><i>45 Years</i> Janet Bush, OM Orville James, OM</p> <p> <i>Celebrate our Jubilands</i></p> <p><i>50 Years</i> Doyle Prier, OM Marion Jackson Tyler, OM</p> 	<p><i>Celebrate our Jubilands</i></p> <p><i>60 Years</i> Audrey Fisher, OM Donald Johns, OM William Lord, OM</p> <p><i>63 Years</i> Cecil Wittich, OM</p> <p><i>64 Years</i> Joan Gugeler, DM Morley Hammond, OM Paul Webb, OM</p> <p><i>67 Years</i> Randolph Scott, OM Bruce Seebach, OM</p> <p><i>68 Years</i> Calvin Evans, OM George Moore, OM</p> <p><i>70 Years</i> Bruce McLeod, OM</p> <p><i>72 Years</i> R. Cerwyn Davies, OM</p> <p></p>
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New Regional Council Staff

John Egger, Minister, Social Justice

Five Oaks Executive Director, Michael Shewburg, approached the regional councils to ask if we might be interested in a joint position combining the half-time role of the Partner Program Director at Five Oaks with the half-time role of Minister, Social Justice in the regional councils. We crafted a Ministry Sharing Agreement and submitted two position descriptions for our joint search. Human Resources raised concerns; these two do not seem to fit together.

By this time, Michael was on sabbatical and Acting Executive Director, Pegi Ridout, and Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, met. We agreed that what each of us wanted was a person who could invite others into a deeper experience of faith that would lead them to live differently in the world.

In John Egger, newly appointed to this joint position, we believe we have found someone who can do that!



John was raised in Calgary. He has a Ph.D. in New Testament studies from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. His dissertation was on Paul's use of the Hagar/Sarah motif in his letter to the Galatians and how it has been spun in the history of interpretation. This was a kind of case study into how biblical texts have been (i.e., can be) misread in the history of the church and the dangers thereof.

John has served numerous United Church congregations in Calgary and Toronto in a variety of youth, educational and intergenerational ministries, including intercultural experience with Centennial Japanese United Church (now Bayview) in Toronto and Taiwanese United Church of Toronto, as well as ecumenical experience working with the Anglican Church (Christ Church Calgary) and the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Varsity Acres in Calgary). These experiences gave him an appreciation for the possibilities for intercultural and transformative ministry within congregations, especially through engaged intergenerational education.

John has just concluded his home assignment duties following his return to Canada after serving four years as a Mission Co-Worker with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

We look forward to welcoming John among us as together we learn to share a staff person between the regional councils and Five Oaks. John has kindly agreed to start on May 26th so that he can attend the regional council meetings for Western Ontario Waterways, Horseshoe Falls and the tri-Executive meeting to receive the Evaluation Report. He will arrive in time for a meeting of the program committee of Five Oaks along with Five Oaks Annual Meeting! He'll definitely be caught up in a flurry of events for the first few weeks!

We're looking forward to working with John!

Want to know more about John?

Check out his [People in Partnership Profile](#). Or this episode of the [It's Your Call](#) podcast.

Section Two: Information

Welcome to Western Ontario Waterway's First Hybrid Regional Council Meeting

For those Attending In-Person: **IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PLEASE READ**

Welcome back to our first in-person gathering since 2019! Here are some guidelines and information for you.

Location: **Unifor Family Education Centre, 115 Shipley Ave, Port Elgin**

Interior map of Unifor Centre follows on the next page:

- We will be **meeting in Assembly Hall** at Unifor.
- Children's programming will be in the **Young Workers Room**
- The Christian Resource Centre will be onsite in the **Alcohol-Free Café**.

Blank plastic name tag holders, lanyards and name cards will be provided and will be placed on each table in Assembly Hall.

Tables have been numerically pre-assigned. **PLEASE REVIEW THE TABLE GROUP LIST** on the next few pages.

Please bring your own writing implement(s), paper, if desired.

On Arrival ALL those attending In-Person need to check-in with front desk – this includes those who are not staying overnight on site. You will be given a meal ticket for the weekend, which you can keep in your nametag holder.

Check-in begins at 3:00 pm. There will be a break in the Friday meeting at approximately 3:00 pm. The Friday meeting will end at approximately 5:00 pm, providing more time to check-in prior to supper.

Check-out is before 10:00 am on departure day.

Food will be served cafeteria style by the catering staff.

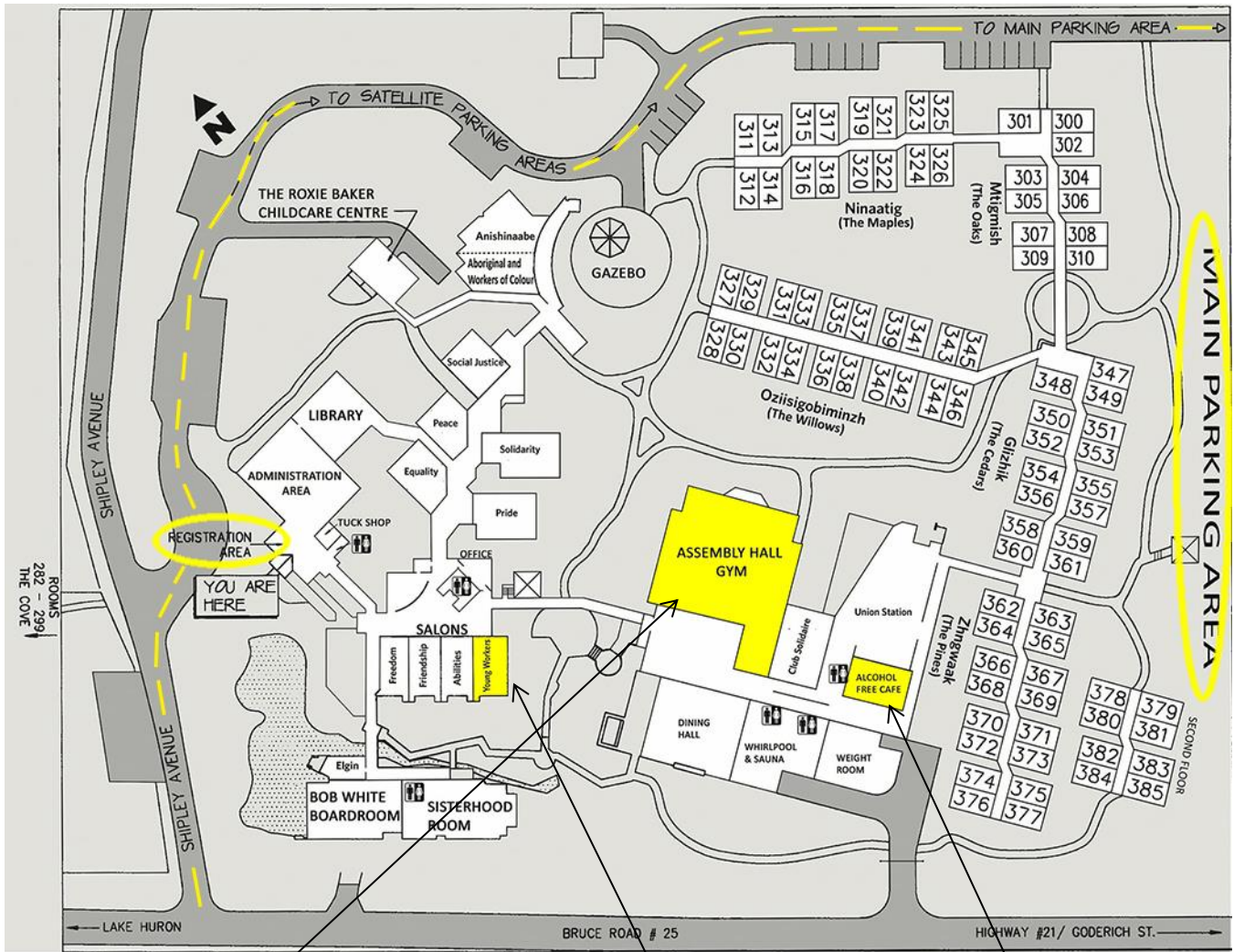
For those Participating On-Line



Andrew Hyde will be your Zoom community host. If you have questions/comments during the meeting, or are feeling disconnected from the community, please check in with Andrew so he can assist you.

When the in-person gathering has table group discussions, you will be moved into breakout rooms.

Unifor Family Education Centre Map of Buildings



MEETINGS & CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SERVICE
WILL BE IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
IN THE YOUNG WORKERS ROOM

CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTRE
IN THE ALCOHOL FREE CAFÉ



Table Groups at the Unifor Family Education Centre

1	Wonder	Chimvinga	5	Ellen	Baynton-Walker
1	Jessica	Cottrell	5	Sandra	Cable
1	Agnes	Martin	5	Brent	Caslick
1	Kara	McCluskie	5	Gord	Dunbar
1	Fred	Monteith	5	Christine	Grose
1	Colin	Snyder	5	Cheryl	Oliva
1	Sheryl	Spencer	5	Joyce	Osborne
1	Patricia	Steer	5	Judy	Tuck
2	Kate	Ballagh-Steeper	6	Michiko	Bown-Kai
2	Mark	Breathwaite	6	Sue	Campbell
2	Betty	Jones	6	Tom	Dunbar
2	Beth	Kerr	6	Arthur	Hills
2	Lori-Ann	Livingston	6	Margaret	Krauter
2	John	Lougheed	6	Lynn	McRuer
2	Janice	Mason	6	Tim	Reaburn
2	Sharon	Norton	6	Cathie	Stewart Savage
3	Jean	Bennett	7	Craig	Bartlett
3	Audrey	Brown	7	Rosemary	Benbow
3	Lewis	Coffman	7	Ann-Marie	Collins
3	Harry	Disher	7	Doug	Cruickshank
3	Rebekah	Duncan	7	Diane	Dick
3	Janet	Iles	7	Diane	Dunseith
3	Jennifer	Stephens	7	Gwen	Good
3	Jen	Westbrook	7	Martha	Pedoniquotte
4	Carolyn	Davidson	8	John	Adeyemi
4	Heather	Davies	8	Tracey	Billing
4	Maggie	Dieter	8	Sarah	Bruer
4	Doug	Hayward	8	Chris	Fickling
4	Jenny	Kers	8	Alex	Jebson
4	Paul	Parkin	8	Jeff	Learmonth
4	David	Shearman	8	Michael	Shewburg
4	Catherine	Smith	8	Joan	Tuchlinsky

Table Groups at the Unifor Family Education Centre *continued*

9	Greg	Case	Staff		
9	Mary	Hawthorne	Table		
9	Gerry	Hofstetter	13	Micol	Cottrell
9	Gail	Koopman	13	John	Egger
9	Stacey	Mortson	13	Andrew	Hyde (Zoom community host)
9	Marilyn	Parkin	13	Ruthanna	Mack
9	Shelley	Smith	13	Thérèse	Samuel
9	Valerie	VandeWiele			
10	Jenn	Brown	Kids		
10	Gary	Clark	Program		
10	Peter	Kudelka	14	Olyndra	Irving
10	Heather	Leffler	14	Neelah	Irving
10	Tina	Oteka	14	Mya	Keeshig
10	Keith	Reynolds	14	Ada	Keeshig
10	Marg	Smith	14	Kathy	Douglas
10	Judy	Zarubick	14	Robyn	Runstelder
11	Bill	Bruce	A&B		
11	Nancy	Denham	Table		
11	Miriam	Flynn	On	Mark	Laird
11	Brian	Hymers	stage		
11	Jennifer	Irving		Terry	Smith
11	Hugh	MacDonald		Cheryl-Ann	Stadelbauer-Sampa
11	Mary Ellen	Parsons		Sue	Duliban
11	Penny	Squirrell			
12	Judy	Chalmers	Tech		
12	Deborah	Deavu	Booth		
12	Liz	Dillman		Greg	Smith-Young
12	Norm	Eygenraam		Dave	Jagger
12	Ann	Harbridge		John	Neff
12	Henry	MacLeod			
12	Kristal	McGee			

Western Ontario Waterways is an Affirming Regional Council

Affirming is more than welcoming 2SLGBTQ+ people in our faith communities. It's about living each day growing and supporting these communities in every way we can as Jesus taught us to do. We celebrate those Communities of Faith who have become Affirming Communities.

Communities of Faith who are Affirming Communities

Westminster United Church, Waterloo	<i>September 1999</i>
Wesley United Church, Cambridge	<i>February 2002</i>
Harcourt Memorial United Church	<i>April 2005</i>
Parkminster United Church, Waterloo	<i>November 2007</i>
Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo	<i>March 2014</i>
Huron Shores United Church, Grand Bend	<i>September 2017</i>
Avondale United Church, Stratford	<i>June 2018</i>
First United Church, Waterloo	
Pine River United Church, Ripley	<i>September 2020</i>
Dublin Street United Church, Guelph	<i>September 2022</i>
Georgian Shores United Church, Owen Sound	<i>September 2022</i>



Affirm | S'affirmer
UNITED | ENSEMBLE

Financial Matters

The regional council will find attached:

1) 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements

The statements were approved by the Executive in April and are included for information. A new auditor has been recruited and it is anticipated that audits will proceed on a more regular timetable moving forward.

2) Updated 2023 Budget

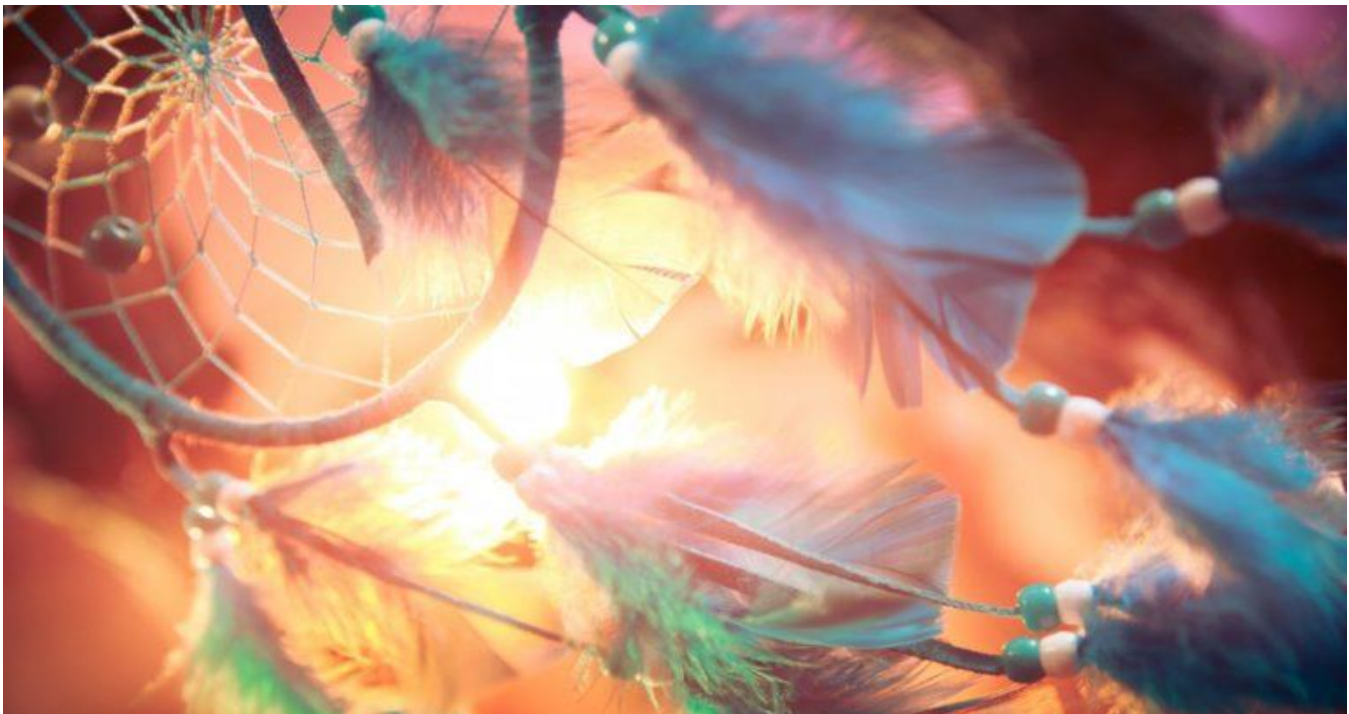
Mission Support Grants, the Mission and Service grants distributed in the regional council are now shown in the area of ministry they fund rather than as a separate total on the Budget.

A deficit budget was presented for 2023. The Executive has put in place an Investment Policy and an Investment Team (Treasurer, Brent Caslick, Bruce Dickson, Terry Smith and Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann). Income earned on investments will help reduce the deficit starting in 2024.

Additionally, the regional council is drawing on its Net Revenue Grant from PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation) to assist with operating costs.

If you have any questions on either of the above, please reach out to either:

Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann or Treasurer, Brent Caslick
csampa@united-church.ca gbcaslick@gmail.com





Financial statements of

**Western Ontario Waterways
Regional Council of
The United Church of Canada**

December 31, 2021 and 2020

Independent auditor's report

To the Executives of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council of The United Church of Canada

Our opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council of The United Church of Canada (the Regional Council) as at December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

What we have audited

The Regional Council's financial statements comprise:

- the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2021 and 2020;
- the statements of operations for the years then ended;
- the statements of changes in fund balances for the years then ended;
- the statements of cash flows for the years then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Regional Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
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PwC refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Regional Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Regional Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Regional Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Regional Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Regional Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Regional Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Oakville, Ontario
December 9, 2022

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

December 31, 2021 and 2020

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Statement of financial position
as at
(amounts in Canadian dollars)

	December 31,	
	31, 2021	2020
	Operating Funds	Restricted Funds
	Property Funds	Total
	\$	
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash in transit	1,118,774	-
Amounts receivable (note 4)	67,236	-
Other (note 4)	-	-
	1,186,010	1,186,010
Due from/to other funds	(250,696)	632,416
Investments (note 5 and note 10)	5,799	5,018,401
Loans receivable (note 6)	-	9,975
Capital assets (note 7)	-	51,144
	941,113	6,271,329
		5,702,210
Liabilities and fund balances		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 8)	136,605	199,719
		258,784
Internally restricted - Schedule 1	-	3,784,151
Externally restricted - Schedule 1	-	662,786
Unrestricted	804,508	-
	941,113	4,646,656
		6,271,329
		5,702,210

Commitments, guarantees and contingencies (note 11)

Approved on behalf of the Regional Council Executive

Regional Executive Minister

President

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**Statement of operations
for the 12 months ended**
(amounts in Canadian dollars)

	December 31,		December 31,	
	2020		2021	
	Operating Funds	Restricted Funds	Property Funds	Total
Revenues	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Council Office assessment funded grants (note 9)	401,375	-	-	401,375
Mission support grants (note 9)	240,000	-	-	240,000
Net proceeds from disbanding congregations(note 9)	-	-	348,658	348,658
Ontario Regional Council Archive grants (note 9)	19,743	-	-	19,743
Donations, registration and other revenue	7,160	-	-	7,160
	668,278	-	348,658	1,016,936
				1,159,145
Expenses				
Salaries, benefits and continuing education	371,663	-	-	371,663
Grants (note 9)	130,400	259,393	225,105	614,898
Meetings and travel	3,670	-	-	3,670
General Council Office service fees (note 9)	39,025	-	-	39,025
Ontario Regional Council Archive fees (note 9)	39,486	-	-	39,486
Office administration	12,703	-	-	12,703
Amortization	-	-	3,109	3,109
Professional fees	49,729	-	(2,109)	47,620
Resources	29,192	-	-	29,192
Property and insurance	8,966	-	-	8,966
Bank charges	77	-	-	77
Other expenses	-	-	2,639	2,639
	684,911	259,393	228,744	1,173,048
				1,212,755
Net revenues (expenses), before items below	(16,633)	(259,393)	119,914	(156,112)
Adjustment to fair market value of investments	-	123,978	-	123,978
Investment income	-	25,818	-	25,818
Investment expenses	-	(2,113)	-	(2,113)
Change in the regional council's share of PTCC fund balances (note 10)	-	499,413	-	499,413
Investment net income and gains	-	647,096	-	647,096
				117,446
Net revenues (expenses)	(16,633)	387,703	119,914	490,984
				63,836

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Statement of changes in fund balances
for the 12 months ended
(amounts in Canadian dollars)

	December 31, 31, 2021		December 31, 2020	
	Operating Funds	Restricted Funds	Property Funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fund balances, beginning of year	781,141	4,099,234	304,862	5,185,237
Net transfers from former presbyteries and conferences	-	-	-	1,194
Net revenues (expenses)	(16,633)	387,703	119,914	490,984
Interfund transfers	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Fund balances, end of year	804,508	4,446,937	424,776	5,676,221
				5,185,237

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Statement of cash flows
for the 12 months ended
(amounts in Canadian dollars)

	December 31,		December 31,	
	2021		2020	
	Operating Funds	Restricted Funds	Property Funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net revenues (expenses)	(16,633)	387,703	119,914	490,984
Adjustments for:				
Amortization	-	-	3,109	3,108
Investment net income and gains	-	(647,096)	-	(647,096)
	(16,633)	(259,393)	123,023	(50,502)
Changes in level of:				
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	23,556
Prepaid expenses	6,236	-	-	(6,236)
Loans receivable	-	350	-	375
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	42,032	119,470	(83,367)	78,135
Interfund adjustments	(616,982)	656,638	(39,656)	43,800
Total cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(585,347)	517,065	-	(68,282)
Investing activities				
Net (contributions) withdrawals to/from investments	40,000	(517,065)	-	(477,065)
Total cash provided by (used in) investing activities	40,000	(517,065)	-	(477,065)
Financing activities				
Total cash provided by (used in) financing activities	-	-	-	1,194
Total cash and deposits provided (used)	(545,347)	-	-	(545,347)
Cash and cash in transit, beginning of year	1,664,121	-	-	1,664,121
Cash and cash in transit, end of year	1,118,774	-	-	1,118,774

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Schedule 1

Schedule of Restricted Fund Balances
as at December 31, 2021
(amounts in Canadian dollars)

	January 01, 2021 Balance	Contributions (Withdrawals)	Revenue	Expenses	Adjustment to investments	Transfer between funds	December 31, 2021 Balance	December 31, 2020 Balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Internally Restricted								
Candidate Assistance Fund	34,689	-	-	-	3,903	(38,592)	-	34,689
Congregational Learning Grants Fund	1,910	-	-	-	-	-	1,910	1,910
Disabled Clergy Fund	22,082	-	-	-	2,484	-	24,566	22,082
Internship Fund	35,092	-	-	-	3,948	(39,040)	-	35,092
Engaging Stewardship	2,756	-	-	-	-	-	2,756	2,756
New Ministry Fund	58,487	-	-	-	6,580	-	65,067	58,487
Waterloo Chaplaincy Fund	22,576	-	-	-	2,315	-	24,891	22,576
Mission & Ministry Fund	120,399	-	-	(52,673)	13,546	-	133,945	120,399
Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults	-	-	-	(2,000)	-	500,625	447,952	-
Ministry Preparation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	91,711	89,711	-
	297,991	-	-	(54,673)	32,776	514,704	790,798	297,991
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Fund (note 10)	2,015,842	(40,000)	62,470	(15,762)	343,864	-	2,366,404	2,015,842
Ministries Development and Leadership Fund (note 10)	523,098	-	16,400	(2,821)	90,272	-	626,949	523,098
	2,538,940	(40,000)	78,870	(18,583)	434,126	-	2,993,353	2,538,940
	2,836,931	(40,000)	78,870	(73,256)	466,902	514,704	3,784,151	2,836,931
Externally Restricted								
Huron Perth Youth Events Fund	23,186	-	-	-	-	(23,186)	-	23,186
Huron Perth Education Fund	18,552	-	-	-	-	(18,552)	-	18,552
Wescott Rural Bursary Fund	52,842	-	-	-	-	(52,842)	-	52,842
Rural Ministry Leadership Fund	-	-	-	-	-	71,394	71,394	-
Bruce Presbytery Bursary Fund	14,079	-	-	-	-	(14,079)	-	14,079
Chaplaincy Fund	(4,246)	-	-	-	-	-	(4,246)	(4,246)
Eden Mills United Church Fund	127,577	-	-	(136,591)	9,014	-	-	127,577
Grace United Church Fund	434,675	-	-	42,764	(477,439)	-	-	434,675
Olivet United Church Fund	595,638	-	-	(63,128)	63,128	-	595,638	595,638
	1,262,303	-	-	(199,719)	114,906	(514,704)	662,766	1,262,303
Total	4,099,234	(40,000)	78,870	(272,975)	581,808	-	4,446,937	4,099,234

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

1. **The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, The United Church of Canada**

The purpose of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, The United Church of Canada (the Regional Council) is to be responsible for providing leadership and resources to the pastoral charges within its assigned geographical boundary in order that the life and work of Jesus Christ may be known in The United Church of Canada (The Church) and in the world.

The Regional Council is the regional headquarters, in central part of southern Ontario, for The United Church of Canada. The Regional Council was established as a result of the restructuring of The Church on January 1, 2019. The Regional Council is an unincorporated entity and, as a Canadian registered charity, is exempt from income tax.

2. **Significant Accounting Policies**

Fund Accounting and Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO") established by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada ("CPA Canada") using the restricted fund method of reporting restricted donations. The funds are described as follows:

Operating Fund

The Operating Fund accounts for the Regional Council's program delivery and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources and operating grants.

Property Fund

The Property Fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the Regional Council's capital assets and funds arising on the sale of properties from disbanding congregations.

Internally Restricted Funds

Internally restricted funds (see Schedule 1) account for transfers, approved at meetings by the executive, to various reserve accounts and the individual transactions charged to these reserves in support of selected ministries. These funds are included in the statement of financial position under the caption "Restricted Funds".

Externally Restricted Funds

Externally restricted funds (see Schedule 1) account for funds received from outside the organization, which must be disbursed for the purposes designated by the funder. These funds are included in the statement of financial position under the caption "Restricted Funds".

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue Recognition

Revenue consists primarily of grants from The General Council Office of The United Church of Canada (The GCO), donations from disbanding congregations as they dispose of their property and distribute their current net assets and grants from church affiliated entities. Grants received from the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada and church affiliated entities are recognized in the fiscal year in which they are received or receivable. Net proceeds from disbanding congregations are recognized as revenue when received or receivable based on the date the Regional Council passes the motion to disband the congregation. Investment income is recognized as earned. Annual meeting and workshop registrations are recorded as revenue in the period in which the annual meeting and workshops occur.

Cash and Deposits

Cash and deposits include cash held for liquidity purposes in bank accounts and term deposits or similar instruments that can be redeemed at any time for face value plus interest accrued to the redemption date.

Financial instruments

The Regional Council initially measures its financial statement assets and financial liabilities at fair value, adjusted for transaction costs.

Except for investments, the Regional Council subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost. Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivables. Financial liabilities measured at amortized costs include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Mutual fund investments are carried at fair value. The purchase and sale of investments are accounted for using settlement date accounting. Investment management fees are expensed as incurred.

Capital Assets and Amortization

Capital assets are stated at acquisition cost. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over: 3 years for information technology equipment; 10 years for building improvements, furniture and fixtures; and 25 years for buildings.

Flow through gifts

Flow through gifts are gifts from funders, intent on supporting specific church related ministries within the Regional Council's geographic boundary, are recorded as revenue in the fiscal period in which they are received. On acceptance of these gifts, the liability to disburse the funds received is recorded in accounts payable and accrued liabilities on the statement of financial position.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profits organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect: the reported amounts of assets and liabilities; disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements; and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The Regional Council makes estimates in determining the estimated useful lives of its capital assets and significant accrued liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

3. Financial instruments risk disclosures

Credit Risk

The Regional Council is exposed to credit risk resulting from the possibility that counter parties default on their financial obligations, or if there is a concentration of financial obligations which have similar economic characteristics that could be affected by changes in economic conditions, such that the Regional Council could incur a financial loss. The Regional Council's maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying values of its cash and deposits, accounts receivable and money market instruments. The Regional Council's cash and deposits and guaranteed investment certificates are on deposit with a Canadian Chartered bank and therefore it is management's opinion that the Regional Council is not subject to significant credit risk with cash and deposits and guaranteed investment certificates. The Regional Council's accounts receivable includes amounts due from presbyteries due to the church restructuring and HST rebates. There is not significant exposure to credit risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Regional Council cannot meet its commitments when they become due. Liquidity risk also includes the risk of the Regional Council not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner. The Regional Council's management manages this risk by reviewing expected cash flow requirements through its budgeting process, anticipating investing and financing activities and holding assets that can be readily converted into cash.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. Management manages this risk with a diversified investment portfolio.

Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Regional Council does not have investments denominated in foreign currency and, as such there is no currency risk.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments and future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Regional Council's exposure to interest rate risk arises from its interest bearing assets. When the Regional Council purchases guaranteed investment certificates, it ladders them into maturity dates with six-month intervals in order to reduce its exposure to interest rate risk. The Regional Council does not have guaranteed investment certificates as at year end.

Other Price Risk

Other price risk refers to the risk that the fair value of the financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from currency risk or interest rate risk), whether those changes are specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar instruments trading in the same market. The Regional Council is exposed to market risk through its investment in mutual funds. Management manages this risk by selecting mutual funds that are diversified as to industry and geography.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

4. Amounts receivable and other current assets

Amounts receivable totaling \$67,236 (2020 - 67,236) is from Antler River Watershed Regional Council in respect of the 2019 church restructuring. The other current assets totaling \$nil (2020 - \$6,236) consisted of a prepaid expense in 2020 which was expensed in 2021.

5. Investments (see also Note 10)

The investments totaling \$5,024,200 (2020 - \$3,900,039) consist of: mutual fund units totaling \$2,030,847 (2020 - \$1,361,099) in various funds managed by BMO Nesbitt Burns of which 19.0% (2020 - 18.3%) are exposed to the US dollar currency; and \$2,993,353 (2020 - \$2,538,940) of investments managed by the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC). The investment net income and gains were \$647,096 (2020 - \$117,446) and are separately disclosed on the statement of operations and included in investments in the statement of financial position.

6. Loans receivable

Loans receivable totaling \$9,975 (2020 - \$10,325) relate to support provided to candidates for ministry and ministers pursuing further education. The loans have no specific terms for repayment and are not interest bearing.

7. Capital assets

Capital assets comprise a 33.33% share of the property of the former Hamilton Conference and building improvements since January 1, 2019. As agreed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways and Antler River Watershed Regional Councils occupy the property and share equally in funding the operating costs of the offices and property. Only Western Ontario Waterways and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils have an ownership interest of 33.33% and 67.67%, respectively. In Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, the property is carried at book cost as of January 1, 2019 less accumulated amortized costs as follows:

	2021		
Capital Assets	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$
Building	43,426	5,211	38,215
Furniture & Fixtures	8,676	2,604	6,072
Building improvements	5,032	1,509	3,523
Land	3,334	-	3,334
	60,468	9,324	51,144

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

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Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

7. Capital assets (continued)

Capital Assets	Cost	2020	
		Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$
Building	43,426	3,474	39,952
Furniture & Fixtures	8,676	1,735	6,941
Building improvements	5,032	1,006	4,026
Land	3,334	-	3,334
	60,468	6,215	54,253

8. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities totaling \$595,108 (2020 - \$516,973) of which \$417,122 (2020 - \$404,029) are payables and accruals to related parties comprising: grants and fees payable to the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada Foundation (2021 - \$264,911; 2020 - \$340,969); grants to local congregations (2021 - \$157,635; 2020 \$79,089); payables to other regional councils (2021 - \$59,774; 2020 - \$49,169); receivable from regional councils (2021 - \$67,236; 2020 - \$67,236); and loan (2021 - \$2,038; 2020 - \$2038).

9. Related parties – grant revenue, net proceeds from disbanding congregations, donations, recoveries, grant and other revenue, and expenses (see also Note 10)

Grant revenue

The Regional Council received: \$641,375 (2020 - \$686,952) of grant revenue from The General Council Office of the United Church of Canada; and \$19,743 (2020 - \$18,566) from the Ontario Regional Council Archive Fund for 50% of the annual archive fees.

Net proceeds from disbanding congregations

Net proceeds from disbanding congregations totaling \$348,658 (2020 - \$ 438,886) are from disbanding congregations which are subject to The Regional Council's policy requiring such proceeds to be distributed as follows:

- a. 30.0% to local ministries as determined by the disbanding congregation;
- b. 15.0% to the Indigenous Ministries of The United Church of Canada;
- c. 12.5% to the current year contribution to the Mission & Service Fund of The Church;
- d. 12.5% to the Mission & Service Endowment Fund managed by the United Church of Canada Foundation;
- e. 5.0% to the Ontario Regional Council Archives Fund; and
- f. 25.0% to The Regional Council.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

9. Related parties (continued)

Expenses

Grant and fees were paid to related parties as follows from:

- 1) Restricted Funds (see Schedule 1)
 - a) \$136,591 (2020 - \$nil) of grants to an extension council in respect of the terms of the Eden Mills Fund;
 - b) \$63,128 (2020 - \$19,089) of grants to two congregations in respect of the terms of the Olivet United Church Fund; and
 - c) \$5,000 (2020 - \$83,708) of grants from the PTCC funds.
- 2) Property Funds
 - a) \$225,105 (2020 - \$341,816) of grants from the Property Funds were issued to The General Council Office and the Foundation of the United Church of Canada as a result of the above noted donations policy.
- 3) Operating Funds
 - a) \$39,025 (2020 - \$36,141) of fees from The General Council Office for accounting and information technology services;
 - b) \$39,486 (2020 - \$37,132) of fees from the Ontario Regional Council Archive Fund for archival services; and
 - c) \$37,600 (2020 - \$24,500) mission support grants to church related entities.

10. Related Party – PTCC (Presbyteries of the Toronto Conference Corporation)

As part of The Church restructuring in 2019, the regional council received transfers from the former Northern Waters Presbytery which included an interest in specific funds in PTCC consisting of: 100% of The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Fund; 25% of the Ministries Development and Leadership Fund. PTCC is a Canadian registered charity and the Regional Council has significant influence over PTCC as result of appointing 2 board of directors members. PTCC is subject to an operating agreement and board policies which require it to hold the above noted funds for the benefit of the Regional Council. The Regional Council has included these funds in Restricted Funds on the statement of financial position and are separately disclosed in Schedule 1. These funds are comprised of investments in fixed income, preferred and common shares, totaling \$2,993,353 at December 31, 2021 and \$2,538,940 as at December 31, 2020. These investments earned \$499,413 in the current year (2020 - \$26,943) and funded \$45,000 (2020 - \$83,708) of grants and withdrawals resulting in an increase in fund balances of \$454,413 (2020 - decrease of \$56,765) and are included in the statement of operations and reported in Schedule 1. The Regional Council received, reviewed and approved all of the grants disbursed by PTCC which performs a compliance review, as required by the operating agreement, before their disbursement.

11. Commitments, guarantees and contingencies

The Regional Council does not have any outstanding guarantees or commitments and has no contingencies to report at the 2021 & 2020 year-ends.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

The United Church of Canada

Notes to the financial statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

(amounts in Canadian dollars)

12. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

The outbreak of new virulent strains of coronavirus continues to require governments worldwide to enforce some emergency measures to combat the spread of this new virus. These measures have caused material disruption to businesses globally resulting in an economic slowdown. The future duration and impact of this new strain of the coronavirus outbreak is unknown at this time. As a result, of the uncertainty, the Regional Council may be negatively impacted by the timing and/or amount of future revenue receipts, the market value of its investments and recovery of loans. It is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of these developments and the impact on the financial results and condition of the Regional Council in future periods.

13. Subsequent events

In February, 2022, Russian forces entered the Ukraine and armed conflict commenced. Economic sanctions have been placed on Russia and certain of its citizens. Price volatility increased substantially since December 31, 2021. As at December 31, 2021, the Regional Council did not hold any significant investments directly impacted by the conflict. It is uncertain how long the conflict, economic sanctions and market instability will continue and whether they will escalate further.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For Information Only

	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	as at 2022-09-30	2023 Budget
Income				
Assessment	334,375	325,000	274,863	325,000
Mission and Service	240,000	240,000	199,588	240,000
Salary Support	67,000	67,000	50,250	67,000
Other Grants	19,743	18,937	14,294	20,000
Other Revenue	7,160		1,221	
PTCC Grant		40,000		50,000
Property Fund				18,010
Investment Income				
Transfers	22,203	72,642	57,553	77,954
	690,481	763,579	597,769	797,964
Expenses				
<u>Regional Operations</u>				
Staff	85,431	85,439	68,007	102,037
Travel		6,799		6,500
Staff Support	-11,278	2,000	323	2,000
Exec Meetings	2,141	22,500	547	17,500
Exec Events		5,000		5,000
Archives	38,802	37,996	28,588	40,000
Corporations	2,000	3,000	312	2,000
Legal	1,067	10,000		10,000
Learning Fund		30,000	500	30,000
Professional Fees	16,145	15,300		20,000
Section J	42,514		36,222	
	176,822	218,034	134,499	235,037
<u>Communities of Faith</u>				
Staff	157,391	99,322	98,920	122,269
Travel	38	4,140	47	6,000
Congregational Support Commission		5,000	253	5,000
CSC Events	4,296	10,000		10,000
	161,725	118,462	99,220	143,269
<u>Pastoral Relations</u>				
Staff		53,322	42,371	46,519
Travel		3,000		3,000
Human Resources Commission	98	5,000		5,000
HRC Events		10,000	228	10,000
Emergency Fund				1,000
	98	71,322	42,599	65,519
<u>Connecting</u>				
Staff	67,094	37,754	28,213	37,868
Travel	62	4,799		2,000
RC Meetings	29,697	30,000	8,433	30,000
Mission Support Grants	15,000			10,000
	111,853	72,553	36,646	79,868
<u>Communication</u>				
Staff	21,451	20,217	19,965	26,007
Travel				1,500
Mission Support Grants	22,600	22,600	16,950	17,000
	44,051	42,817	36,915	44,507

FINANCIAL UPDATE

For Information Only

	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	as at 2022-09-30	2023 Budget
Expenses continued				
<u>Social Justice and Outreach</u>				
Staff		35,328	28,943	38,983
Travel				3,500
Discipleship & Justice Comm. (50%)		2,550		2,500
D&J Events (50%)	321	5,000		5,000
Mission Support Grants	5,000			
	5321	42,878	28,943	49,983
<u>Faith Formation</u>				
Staff	40,284	41,134	31,031	46,984
Travel		3,400		2,500
Discipleship & Justice Comm. (50%)		2,500		2,500
D&J Events (50%)	225	5,000		5,000
Mission Support Grants	27,000	47,000	43,875	44,300
	67,509	99,034	74,906	101,284
<u>Chaplaincy</u>				
Mission Support Grants	57,000.00	57,000	42,750	57,000
<u>Right Relations</u>				
Staff	31,835	14,682	12,630	17,045
Travel		1,000		1,000
Other				500
Mission Support Grant				6,700
	31,835	15,682	12,630	25,245
<u>Office Operations</u>				
GCO Acctg & IT	37,025	36,050	28,890	40,000
Office Operations	593	26,480	17,610	15,000
	37,618	62,530	46,500	55,000
<u>Building Expenses</u>				
	1,734	11,673	7,742	12,000
			563,350	868,712
			34,419	-70,748

DREAMSTAR

There's at least one star hidden in each illustration in the award-winning bestseller *Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes*, written by Susan V. Bosak and illustrated by 15 of the world's top children's illustrators. *Dream* is about hopes and dreams across a lifetime. When you find a star in an illustration, don't forget to make a new wish each time!

You can also make an origami Dream Star with your wish safely tucked inside. Origami stars have a long tradition in Asian cultures – they bring good luck when you make them and when you give them away. Make a Dream Star and keep it in a special place – your desk, windowsill, bedside table – to remind you of the power of dreams. It's also fun to make a lot of the tiny, colorful little stars. String them together with a needle and thread to decorate a room with all the hopes and dreams of children and adults in your school or community. For other creative ways you can use Dream Stars, and more LifeDreams activities, visit the big-picture learning Legacy Project at www.legacyproject.org.

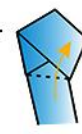
1 Use an origami paper strip, or a strip of colored paper 11 inches long by ½ inch wide. Write your dream on the strip, along with your first name and age. Start making your Dream Star by loosely tying the strip into a knot close to one end.



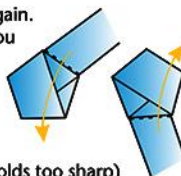
2 Pull on both ends of the strip so that the edges of the strip come together to form a pentagon. Flatten it. The pentagon will have a long tail and a short tail. Fold the shorter end against the pentagon and tuck it into the "pocket."



3 Turn the pentagon around. Fold the longer end along the pentagon so that the edges meet. Maintain the pentagon shape.



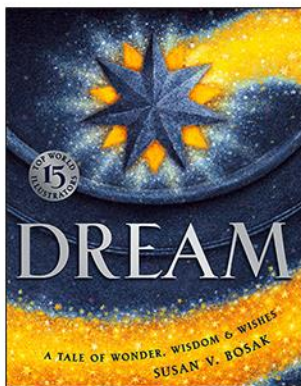
4 Turn. Fold again. Make sure you fold along the edge to retain the shape of the pentagon. Continue folding (don't make the folds too sharp) until you have folded most of the strip and you are left with a small tail.



5 Fold the short end against the pentagon and tuck it into the "pocket" (if the tail is too long, just fold over a bit of the end to make a shorter tail that fits neatly and securely into the pocket).



6 Hold the flat star between the forefinger and thumb of one hand. With a thumbnail from your other hand, gently make a dent into one side of the pentagon to begin to puff out your star. Rotate the star so that you puff out all five sides. Your Dream Star is finished!



Pentecost Worship for Sunday, May 28, 2023 For Use by Congregations

The Worship team of the Regional Council Meeting has put together this worship service for use by congregations on May 28th. Many ministers will have been attending the regional meeting in Port Elgin this weekend, and so we offer this service so that Lay Leaders might lead worship. Alternatively, if your minister is in the pulpit, this service still might be used to make their burden a little lighter on this day.

This service uses as a key resource a book entitled *Dream, a Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes* written by Susan Bosak. This is the same theme used for worship in Port Elgin during our meeting.

Permission has been granted for the use of the book, including projection of images. If you do use the book, please use this as your credit: *Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes* by Susan V. Bosak, www.legacyproject.org.

A YouTube video of the book being read is available if you wish to preview it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4p7BNdajk0>

Images for projection are available from The Legacy Project website

<https://legacyproject.org/books/dreamslides.html>

A hardcopy of the book is available through Indigo/Chapters

<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/home/search/?keywords=Susan%20Bosak%2C%20Dream#internal=1>

or. Amazon.ca

https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=Dream+by+susan+bosak&crd=JIAG2EHKTL85&srefix=dream+by+susan+bosak%2Caps%2C93&ref=nb_sb_noss

There is an opportunity to be interactive during this service. You may wish to prepare some stars in various colours and provide pens/pencils for people to use.

It is also Pentecost Sunday, so we have tried to include some Pentecost themes as well.

This service works well as an intergenerational service.

Please feel free to change or adapt this service to suit your congregation.

Blessings as you dream your dreams and welcome the spirit into worship.

~ *The WOWRC Spring Meeting Worship Team*

Worship For Sunday, May 28, 2023 Pentecost Sunday

Provided by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Before the service begins, pass out paper stars and pens/pencils.

* Indicates the congregation should stand as they are able.

* **Opening Hymn:** Come All You People (Uyai mose) MV #2
or On Pentecost They Gathered VU #195
or Dance with the Spirit MV #156

Acknowledgement of the Land *please insert your own land acknowledgement here.*

Lighting the Christ Candle *(from Godly Play)*

Once there was someone who said such amazing things,
and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him.
But they didn't know who he was.
So, one day they simply had to ask him.
And he said "I am the Light"
And so, we light our Christ Candle,
a light that connects us to God and to one another
A reminder of the light we carry within us
as we seek to be all that we can be as followers of Jesus.

* **Call to Worship (responsively)**

Come to this time of worship with your stories, your dreams and your songs
Come to share in the Spirit.

We come, as faithful men, women and children have come for many generations.

Let all your dreams and visions, your hopes and concerns
come together in a symphony of sound.

**We join together in one chorus of celebration and joy
for what God has done and continues to do among us.**

Let us Worship God.

Prayer of Approach (in unison)

Holy Spirit, move and swirl and dance among us.

**Remind us that you are always present;
encouraging and inspiring us.**

Insert yourself into our hopes and dreams.

Enthuse us with possibilities for what might be.

Stir us during our time together so that when we re-enter our daily lives

we will walk humbly, embrace love and do justice in our unjust and fragmented world. Amen

Announcements – Work of the People

* **Children’s Hymn:** I Love to tell the Story VU #343 or
My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV #138

Children’s Time & Lord’s Prayer

I want everybody to close their eyes and just breath in and out ... nice deep breaths. (3 or 4 times)
Now open your eyes and do the same thing. Can you see your breath? Can you see each other’s
breath? Sometimes if it’s cold outside we can see our breath, but not normally.
Now close your eyes again ... Put your hand in front of your face

And blow....

What do you feel?

So even when we can’t see something, sometimes we can feel it, so we know it’s there.
God is like that. We can’t see God. We can’t touch God. But God is still there. Sometimes we say God is
with us through God’s Spirit. Do you know what we call God’s Spirit? The Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit touches us even when we don’t feel it. In fact, the Holy Spirit is in each one of us.
Some people say our very breathing in and out is the Holy Spirit.

There are two very important stories in the Bible about the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized, the
Holy Spirit came from heaven as a dove and landed on Jesus’ shoulder. When you were baptized the
minister would have said you are baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
The other story is the one of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That’s the day the Holy Spirit came on the
disciples, and they found the power and courage to go out and preach the gospel. They spoke many
different languages, and everyone understood one another. The Holy Spirit is an amazing thing. Our
Bible story today talks about the Holy Spirit and about dreams and visions inspired by the Holy Spirit.
We’re also going to read a book in a few minutes that’s all about dreams.

Now let’s pray the Prayer Jesus taught us.

Lord’s Prayer.

Offering

In every breath we take there is the Spirit
In every word we speak, there is the Spirit
In very gift we give, there is the Spirit
May the Spirit be present in abundance as we offer our gifts.

Offertory Hymn: We Give You But Your Own VU #542 or 543 or
Grateful MV #182

Dedication

Oh God, these gifts are a token of our thanksgiving. We offer them with joy, and pray that your spirit
will blow through them and us, as we use these gifts to become living gifts of hope and grace to others.
Amen

Scripture Reading

Acts 2: 1-21 *(if you don't wish to read all of this you can end at vs 17)*

Reflection: Read the Book Dream by Susan Bosak

(If you have the ability to, project the pictures, see above for resource to get pictures. If you can't project, then be sure to turn the book so people can see the pictures as you read)

After reading the book, invite people to close their eyes for a few moments and think about the dreams they might have had during various times in their lives. (Perhaps have some quiet music playing during this time – about 3 minutes)

Now invite them to open their eyes. Re-read the last page of the book.

“Look up, up, up into those billion. billion sparkling stars.

What dreams do you find?

Little dreams, big dreams, each a hope looking for a life to make it real – a life like yours.

Be a dreamer.

With everything around you.

With everything before you and after you,

With everything that is you...

Dream a dream... your very own dream.”

Now encourage people to take their stars. Write on the star a dream they might have today. It could be a dream for themselves, for their family, or for their church or community. (Again, give about 3 minutes for them to do this)

Once they have written their dreams, invite those who are comfortable doing so to share their dreams either with their neighbour, or to come forward and share with the congregation. You might even want to invite conversation about the dreams for the congregation. Or perhaps have people write two dreams – one personal and one for the Community of Faith. Once done sharing, fold the paper stars up and have someone collect them.

Once collected offer Prayers of the people. *(Adapt as needed)*

Prayers of the People

Creator God, we gather as a humble people, just a small part of this wonderful world in which live. We pray for your spirit to be with us on this Pentecost Sunday. We pray for our church leaders who have met this weekend, and we pray for those who have been ordained and admitted to this United Church of ours. Instill in them your spirit as they seek to serve you and their congregations.

We pray for all the people and places in our world that face challenges. We think of those in Western Canada as fire continues to rage, destroying vast areas of land, and threatening the people who live there. We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, and Syria and all the places where every day is a fight for survival.

We pray for people in our own country who live without the necessities of life. In a country so vast and so wealthy, help us to share so all may have enough.

Creator of dreams, we bring to you, our dreams. We have many dreams. Dreams and hopes for the future. Walk with us as we embark upon our dreams. Guide us and lift us up as we yearn to be all that you would have us be. Help us to fulfil your dreams for us. Be with those whose dreams seem distant. Offer them hope and give them comfort.

We offer to you the dreams we have named today, along with the dreams that remain in our hearts. Receive them, and bless them, as you bless us.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Affirmation of Faith *(written for the Spring 2023 Regional meeting)*

We believe in God, whose heart is joined with our hearts,
whose dreams are lived out in our dreams,
who invites us into relationship with one another and all creation,
loving and caring for our neighbour as we are loved and cared for by God.

We believe in God, who sent Jesus, crucified and risen,
to teach us lessons of hope and love,
whose own dreams were of a kin-dom of unity and love.

We believe in God, who sends the Spirit,
A Spirit that moves through us as we live in relationship with creation and with one another,
a Spirit that enlivens our dreams, and abides in us as we live out those dreams.

Indeed, we believe in God, whose heart is joined with our hearts.

Praise be to God. Amen

* **Closing Hymn:** Spirit of Gentleness VU #375 or
We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection VU #586

* **Benediction** *(from Dream by Susan Bosak)*

“Be a dreamer.
With everything around you.
With everything before you and after you,
With everything that is you...
Dream a dream... your very own dream.”
And may all your dreams come true. Amen

* **Choral Blessing:** Go Now in Peace

¹ Whole People of God Jan 3/16

² Gathering, ACE 2015/16 Nora Vedr3ess, Calvary U.C. Prince Albert Sask.

REMIT 1 – Information and Links

ON the GC44 Website (www.generalcouncil44.ca)

[Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization | United Church 44th General Council \(generalcouncil44.ca\)](#)

For more information email remits@united-church.ca

- ▶ **To read the proposals**, visit <https://commons.united-church.ca/>
 - ▶ Then select the following: Governance > General Council > 44th General Council > 3. Proposals > Theme - Nurture the Common Good.
 - ▶ And then select the document you wish to read:
 - ▶ GS10 Living into Reconciliation
 - ▶ NIC01 National Indigenous Circle—Restructuring of Indigenous Church.

United Church Video about the Remit: YouTube: <https://youtu.be/d5KbFs8BRMw>

approx. time = 6 minutes

THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

- ▶ The United Church Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery
[Backgrounder and 2012 Motion to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery \(united-church.ca\)](#)
- ▶ Doctrine of Discovery: Canadian Museum for Human Rights article
[The Doctrine of Discovery | CMHR \(humanrights.ca\)](#)

THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- ▶ The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/un-declaration-rights>
- ▶ UN Declaration and Canada
<https://justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html>
- ▶ The UN Declaration
https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

THE CALLS TO ACTION (*TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION*)

- ▶ Truth and Reconciliation Commission (*including the Calls to Action*)
<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/truth-and-reconciliation>

THE CALLS TO THE CHURCH (CARETAKERS OF OUR INDIGENOUS CIRCLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA)

- ▶ The Calls to the Church
<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/indigenous-ministries/calls-church>

THE UNITED CHURCH APOLOGIES

United Church Apologies to Indigenous Peoples

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/apologies>

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ABORIGINAL PEOPLES (RCAP)

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) Final Report is a huge document. If you wish to take a glance, here is the link: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/royal-commission-aboriginal-peoples/Pages/final-report.aspx>

Nov 21, 2021 was the 25th anniversary of the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP)

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/royal-commission-aboriginal-peoples-25-1.6243545>

Other Background Information:

JOURNEY TOWARD RECONCILIATION of THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Reconciliation 101

This workshop recorded on April 29, 2021 offers an introduction to the non-Indigenous United Church's journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. (Time=1:06)

[Right Relations and Indigenous Justice - Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council \(wowrccc.ca\)](#)

The video is embedded in the web page, and you can also click to access it directly on YouTube

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION



Looking for stewardship resources that will create a generous, grateful community?

Your Community of Faith Stewardship Support team has everything you need.

From courses and coaching to worship services and a full giving program outline, we'll walk your stewardship journey with you by providing encouragement, the best wisdom on giving trends and fresh ideas to incorporate stewardship into the life of your community of faith.

Use the QR Code below to access our digital stewardship filing cabinet.

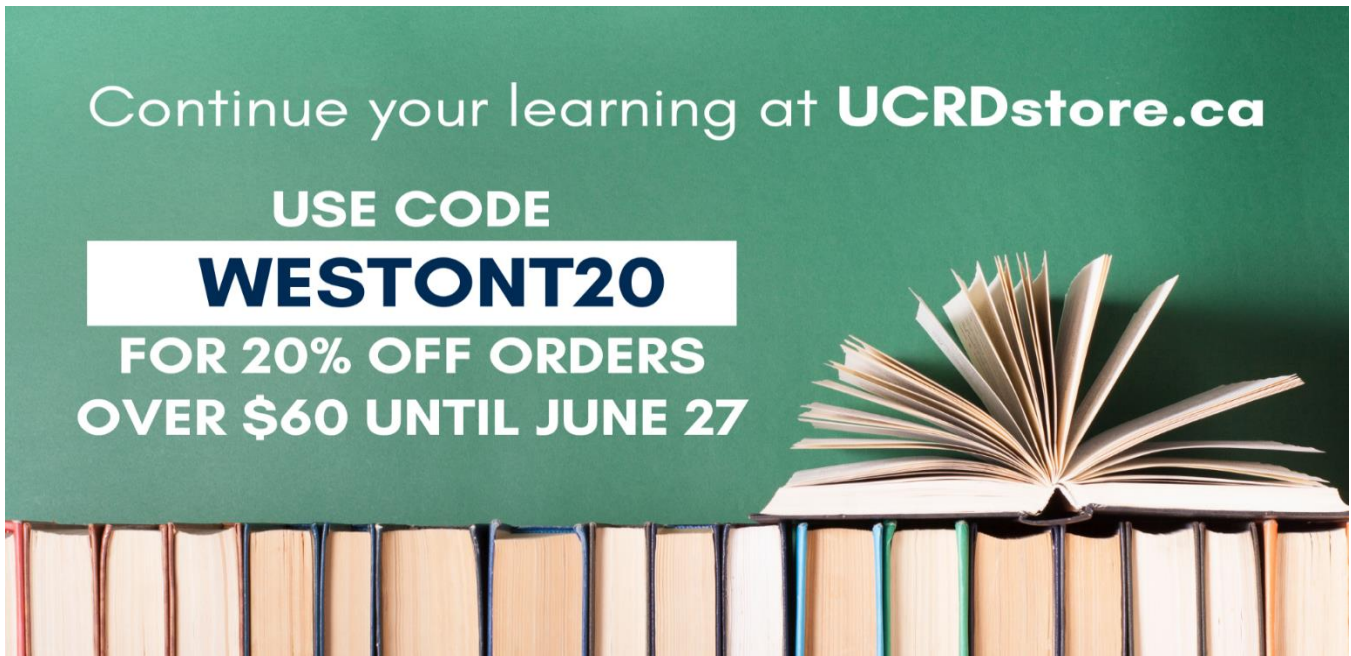


Find out more & connect with your regional Community of Faith Stewardship Support staff:
<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/called-to-be-the-church>

UCRD (NOTE: Discount being offered!)



The Resource Centre Display is a hop, skip and a jump from the Assembly Hall in The Alcohol Free Café



Section Three: Meeting Materials

Agenda for the Spring 2023 Hybrid Meeting: Dreaming Dreams

Friday May 26	1:30 PM – 5:30 PM	HYBRID MEETING: IN-PERSON & ONLINE
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1:30 PM Assembly Hall	Gathering music Welcome & Constitute Meeting Land Acknowledgement Proposal #1: Opening & Procedural Motion BRAVE/Affirming Statement & Leadership Team Introductions Opening Worship Welcome to WOWRC “Dreaming Dreams <i>in</i> WOWRC” Remit Foundations: Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice
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Break: 20 minutes

A Story of Bold Discipleship: Jacob Shaw
Proposal #2: Volunteer Recruitment
“Dreaming Dreams *for* WOWRC”
Reminder
Grace

5:30–7:00 PM	Supper
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7:00–7:30 PM Assembly Hall	Meet & Greet WOWRC President, President-Elect, Commission Chairs
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7:30-8:00 PM Gazebo	Vespers followed by a bonfire
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8:00 PM Assembly Hall	Celebration of Ministries Service rehearsal
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Saturday May 27	9:30 AM – 3:15 PM	HYBRID MEETING: IN-PERSON & ONLINE
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7:00 AM-8:30 AM	Breakfast for those at Unifor
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9:30 AM Assembly Hall	Welcome Back Land Acknowledgement Moderator’s Message Gathering music and Opening Prayer A Story of Daring Justice: Adam Creswell, HUB UCC Foundation: Sarah Charters, Tim Reaburn Proposal #3: Executive and Commissions Slate
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Break: 20 minutes

Agenda for the Spring 2023 Hybrid Meeting *continued*

Saturday May 27	11:15 AM – 3:15 PM	CONTINUED
	Introduction of Candidates	
	Candidates address the Court: Craig Bartlett, Wonder Chimvinga, Stacey Mortson	
	Staff Anniversary	
	Board of Vocation: Judy Zarubick	
	A Story of Deep Spirituality: Mary Savage	
	In Memoriam	
	Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes	
	Celebrating Anniversaries and Jubilands	
Noon to 1:15 PM	Grace and Lunch	
1:30 PM	Welcome back	
	Commission Name Changes	
	Stewardship Offerings: Brenna Baker	
	“Sharing Dreams <i>with</i> WOWRC”	
	Proposal #4: DLMS as VAM	
	Unfinished/New Business	
	Kids Across the Region/Refugee Advisory Network: Kathy Douglas	
	Save the Dates	
	Courtesies	
	Thanking President	
	Covenanting with Newly Elected Executive/Commission Members	
	Proposal #5: Closing Motion	
	Closing Blessing	
	Adjourn	
4:00 PM	CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE + INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT	
ASSEMBLY HALL	Unifor Family Education Centre, Port Elgin	

Proposal #1 – Opening & Procedural Motion

Title: Opening and Procedural Motion

Origin: Executive Minister

What is the issue?

The regional council must establish the procedures by which it will conduct business.

Why is this issue important?

This clarifies and confirms the way in which decision-making will happen.

How might the regional council respond to the issue?

The regional council might adopt the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary;
2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2022-11-18-19;
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
 - i. Executive
2023-02-15
2023-01-25
2022-11-26
2022-10-19
 - ii. Congregational Support Commission
2023-04-13
2023-03-09
2023-02-09
2023-01-12
Covenant Commission
2022-11-10
2022-10-13
 - iii. Discipleship and Justice Commission
2023-03-16
2023-02-15
2023-01-18
Mission and Discipleship Commission
2022-11-30
2022-10-20
2022-09-21
2022-06-30
2022-05-12
 - iv. Human Resources Commission
2023-03-28
2023-02-21

2023-01-17

2022-11-22

2022-10-18

for information.

Note: Minutes are posted on the website www.wowrcucc.ca "About" page

4. Confirm the appointment of Roz Vincent-Haven to the Congregational Support Commission;
5. Appoint Fred Monteith as Parliamentarian;
6. Appoint Terry Smith as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
7. Name Michiko Bown-Kai to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
8. Name President Mark Laird, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Terry Smith, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
9. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;
10. Set the bounds of the meeting as the Zoom call and the Unifor Family Education Centre, Port Elgin, Ontario;
11. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c);
12. Make all guests corresponding members;
13. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 27, 2023;
14. Receive all written reports in the workbook.
15. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council

Step One:

The Presenter will outline

- A) What is the issue? And
- B) The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

Proposal #2 – Volunteer Recruitment

Title: Volunteer Recruitment

Origin: Executive

Background

When the regional council was formed, the Transition Commission established four decision-making bodies and actively recruited members for each looking to balance lay/ordered status and gender while considering diverse identities.

A self-nomination process was designed (Expression of Interest) as the way in which people would present themselves for decision-making roles. To give people as long as possible to consider completing an Expression of Interest, the deadline has been set for during the regional council meeting.

The Governance Handbook assigns nominations to the Executive. Representatives from the Executive have worked to recruit volunteers through videos and personal contacts to prepare a slate to be approved at the Spring Regional Council meetings and attempted to acknowledge people who have put their name forward and completed their term. This small group is working to develop a process for Volunteer Recruitment that is active not reactive.

What is the issue?

To give people as long as possible to consider completing an Expression of Interest, the deadline has been set for during the regional council meeting. The result is that there is no time for a review of the membership of the Executive or Commission as a whole relative to geography, balance or diversity.

In the Nominations policy set out in Governance Handbook, the Executive provides a slate of volunteers to be elected by ballots first for diversity and then to fill the remaining vacancies. This practice while attempting to offer diversity does not allow the best use of volunteers' gifts and skills.

Why is this important?

As the Regional Council has had a challenge finding enough volunteers, it is not helpful to turn people down through election where multiple volunteers have offered for the same position.

The Recruitment Committee was able to review all expression of interest and vacancies and discern where to place volunteers for diversity and best use of skills and experience.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might agree to:

- A. Endorse the WOWRC Executive's action in naming a recruitment committee to bring a slate for election at the May 2023 meeting of the Regional Council; and**
- B. Authorize the Executive to**
 - 1. Establish a mandate for a volunteer recruitment team and add this to the Governance Handbook.**
 - 2. Appoint members to this team.**
 - 3. Establish the practice of bringing a diverse slate of members for election to the Executive and Commissions at the spring meeting of the Regional Council.**

Proposal #3 – Executive and Commissions Slate

Title: Executive and Commissions Slate

Origin: Recruitment Committee

What is the issue?

The regional council can best fulfill its decision-making responsibilities if it has a full slate of diverse members in decision-making roles.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might agree to:

Approve the slate prepared by the Recruitment Committee as presented:

WOWRC May 2023

Executive and Commissions Slate

(Terms are 3 years, renewable once)

Executive

Beth Kerr DM (First term to 2026)

Congregational Support Commission

Rebekah Duncan OM (First term to 2026)

Lesley Fox OM (First term to 2026)

Human Resources Commission

Harry Disher OM (First term to 2026)

Carol Stephenson (First term to 2026)

Discipleship and Justice Commission

Chris Panylo (First term to 2026)

Proposal #4 – Designated Lay Ministers as Voluntary Associate Ministers

Title: Designated Lay Ministers (DLM) as Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAM)

Origin: Western Ontario Waterways DLM Network:
Kincardine United Church; St. John’s United Church, Chesley; Egmondville United Church;
and First United Church, Owen Sound.

What is the issue?

In Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, retired Designated Lay Ministers are not permitted to function in ministry as Voluntary Associate Ministers. However, many retired DLMs continue to support congregations either in their local context, by permitting their names to be added to Pulpit Supply lists or as Pastoral Charge Supervisors. Some take up short-term supply appointments after retirement.

According to the *Manual (2023)*:

1.2.5.3 Functions of Ministry—Outside Pastoral Relationship

At any time that ministry personnel are not called or appointed to a community of faith, they may carry out the functions of ministry in the United Church only if they have a formal association with a community of faith, are acting on behalf of that community of faith, and have the approval of the community of faith’s governing body; or *An example of a “formal association” with a pastoral charge would be where the minister has been designated as a “voluntary associate minister” or “honorary associate minister” by the community of faith or its governing body they have been appointed to a community of faith to exercise the functions of ministry associated with it.*

According to the Governance Handbook of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, membership in the Regional Council includes:

- 3) Any retired Designated Lay Minister who retired while serving a community of faith in the regional council who is a member of a community of faith in the regional council.

Why is this issue important?

Voluntary Associate Minister is the only designation currently available in our regional council, which allows for a “formal association” with a community of faith.

The Manual (2023) section 1.2.5.3 references ministry personnel – it does not specify ordered ministers. Designated Lay Ministers, while not part of the Order of Ministry are considered ministry personnel when active. Although DLMs are considered lay members on retirement, in practice we are still referred to as ministry personnel in many ways. In fact, our experience of ministry clearly puts us into the ministry personnel category more easily than the lay category.

Our regional council includes retired DLMs as members of the regional council, provided they retired while serving in active ministry in the region. We continue to abide by the Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel, and in fact are reminded of these by the Office of Vocation (i.e., Police Record checks, boundary training, racial justice training) when they are due.

Living Skies Regional Council has set a precedent, including retired DLMs in their definition of Voluntary Associate Ministers.

The General Council continues to grapple with the question of DLM status as ministry personnel within The United Church of Canada. It is an issue that continues to be addressed at every General Council in recent history, and currently sits with the General Secretary. It is clear that the status of DLMs in the church is unclear. As such this has become a justice issue for DLMs who have faithfully served the church for many years, and continue to do so.

What might the regional council do?

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council might amend the Current Policy for Voluntary Associate Ministers [Current Definition of a Voluntary Associate Minister: A Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) is a recognized ordered minister in The United Church of Canada who is retired or between appointments.]

to change the definition of a Voluntary Associate Minister as follows:

A Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) is

a recognized ordered minister in The United Church of Canada who is retired or between appointments or

a designated lay minister who retired while serving a community of faith in the Regional Council, who is a member of a community of faith in the Regional Council and therefore a member of the Regional Council.

or

a designated lay minister who is between appointments but is actively searching for a new call or appointment.

Proposal #5 – Closing Motion

Title: Closing Motion
Origin: Executive Minister

What is the issue?

The work of the regional council continues between regional council meetings.

Why is this issue important?

The regional council must be clear how the work will continue.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its May 26-27, 2023 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2023;
and
4. Entrust the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council in accordance with *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council;
5. Close the May 26-27, 2023 meeting of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministries Service on Saturday, May 27, 2023.

Dreaming Dreams

