

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Fall Meeting

Sat., Nov 16 – Sun., Nov 17, 2024

Online Meeting Workbook

“We are One – Widening the Circle”



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Workbook Introduction

Theme: “We are One – Widening the Circle”

Purpose: **Connecting, Supporting, Transforming**

Priorities:

Assessment	Mission & Support
Communities of Faith Support/Pastoral Relations	Children and Youth
Communications and Resources Support	Chaplaincy
Connecting/Meeting	Social Justice

Format and Process: Decision Making

The format for General Council proposals is being used for the regional meeting. The General Council approach involves three distinct stages in the decision-making process:

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

In our regional council meeting we do not have the space or time to mirror these stages in the same way the General Council practices them.

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.
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.

BRAVE: Commitment to Community Safety



BRAVE: Commitment to Community Safety

We strive, in this time of co-learning, to be brave by

B – bring accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence

R – reflecting on and naming our own biases

A – actively listening

V – vocalizing questions that arise from our learning

E – encountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Affirming Ministry Vision Statement

SAFETY. SANCTUARY. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Striving to be faithful followers of Jesus in our time and place, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council will continue to remove barriers to participation in the life and work of the regional council and society, committing ourselves to be open to the Spirit. Resisting all forms of oppression, we welcome and celebrate people of any sexual orientation and gender identity, and all others who are marginalized. The Regional Council, Staff, Executive, Commissions, networks, and members commit to working toward fulfilling the vision statement by:

A. Continuing to remove barriers to participation in the life and work of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

B. Continuing to remove barriers to participation in society.

C. Committing to be open to the Spirit.

D. Resisting oppression.

E. Welcoming and celebrating people of any sexual orientation and gender identity.

Participation in a Virtual Meeting

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, Mark's iPhone might read: Mark's iPhone. Mark would need to go to the **Participant list** and **change his name** to: Mark Laird (he/him). 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 Mark was a guest, he would write his name as:

x-Mark Laird. 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.

Equity Support Team Member Position Description

The members of the Equity Support Team are two or more individuals who might volunteer to be active participants at a United Church meeting or event. The Equity Support Team members are part of the leadership of a meeting or an event, and have responsibilities before, during, and after a gathering.

Equity realizes that in order to ensure fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all peoples, we need to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some people and groups. Equity moves closer to justice, and it is part of the work of the church.

While working toward equity is a collective responsibility of everyone, the members of the Equity Support Team have a particular role in helping to name equity issues at gatherings.

Responsibilities

Before the meeting

- Attend planning team meetings, when possible, to help offer advice about equity-related issues and to help shape the planning process for the event or meeting.
- Receive background education and training on equity and receive an orientation to the Equity Support Team role.
- Offer advice about Web content, meetings, workshops, or events so that they follow established protocols for equity, accessibility, and communication-related issues; and that PowerPoint slides comply with an established font size protocol (as suggested by the 43rd General Council), and communicate a set of best practices for online and in-person meetings.
- Along with the planning team, clarify that the role of the Equity Support Team is different from the role of theological reflectors, chaplains, Elders, and other leadership roles that are present at a meeting or event.
- Share a contact phone number or equity e-mail with participants so they can be in touch with the Equity Support Members during the gathering.
- Be introduced to participants of the meeting in advance (by short video and/or by e-mail with a bio) so participants at the meeting might get to know the team members before the gathering takes place.

During the meeting

- At the beginning of the meeting, offer a covenant, equity agreements, intercultural lens questions, or other related protocols that can help work toward equity at the gathering.
- Be available (by phone or e-mail) to participants at the meeting who would like to share about any equity-related issues over the course of the meeting (including affirmation of processes, or hearing particular challenges that people are experiencing).
- Help work toward the full participation of peoples of all identities.

- Be attentive to microaggressions, unhelpful power dynamics, harm, intercultural conflicts, oppressive practices, and/or other inequities.
- If hurt or harm has been done in the course of a meeting, in most cases do not offer a direct intervention or interjection in the moment, but rather be in touch with the moderator or chair of the meeting and ask them to address the issue at another point during the gathering.
- Partway through the gathering and/or at the end of the gathering, offer advice and feedback on how the meeting has been functioning in terms of equity. It is helpful to offer some affirmation about what has been going well, and suggestions for a subsequent gathering.
- When reporting back to the meeting, point out any issues in a general way, and not specifically target individual people.

After the meeting

- Meet with staff and/or the planning team to offer feedback about equity for a subsequent meeting. These could name what has worked well and what should continue, as well as suggestions for improvement at a subsequent meeting.
- If possible, offer a written report of their insights and recommendations for a future meeting.

Background

The United Church of Canada, through its General Council, has made several commitments around equity in recent years. These commitments include the following:

- adopting [the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the framework for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
- adopting the [Calls to the Church](#) as the basis for a new relationship
- welcoming [people of all sexual orientations and gender identities](#) into full membership and ministry in the church
- committing to becoming [an intercultural church](#)
- committing to becoming an open, accessible, and barrier-free church, where there is [full participation of people with disabilities](#)
- [working toward functional bilingualism](#) and ensuring that francophone ministries are an integral part of the church's identity, mission, and vision
- [opposing discrimination](#) of any kind on the basis of identity, and
- developing an anti-racism policy and committing to becoming an [anti-racist denomination](#).

All of these commitments are part of ongoing and sustained efforts for the United Church to continue to work toward equity, creating better places of belonging for people of all identities, to challenging power and privilege, and to live into God's call to be the church.

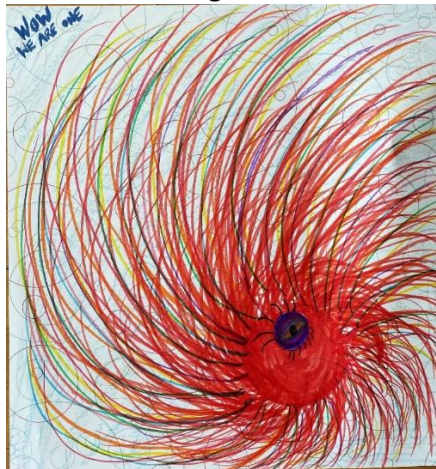
Section One: Check-In

Meeting Agenda:

Saturday, November 16	9:30AM – 4:30PM
	Opening Motions Welcome, Land Acknowledgement Introduction of Meeting Leadership Opening Worship Congregational Support Commission Report In Memoriam / CoF Life Cycle Changes Break Financial Report/Budget Stewardship video Property Fund Proposals Lunch Discipleship & Justice Commission Report GC45 Youth Delegates video GC Proposals Break Human Resources Commission Report Introduction of candidates/Candidates address the court Final Proposals/New business/Unfinished business Courtesies Closing Motion Closing Worship
Sunday, November 17	3:00 p.m.
	Celebration of Ministry Service Grace United Church 310 12 th Street, Hanover, ON

President Jennifer Irving's Message:

WOW-We are One
Widening the Circle



[Image: a small blue/black circle (perhaps an eye with eyelashes) in the bottom right quadrant of the paper surrounded by a larger red circle with multicolour lines curving out from the circle in a spiral to the right spreading as far as the edges of the paper and beyond. Blue printed words in the top left corner say "WOW: WE ARE ONE"]

When I went to compose my message for our Fall Meeting Workbook, I naturally pulled up the message I wrote for the Workbook for last fall's meeting. What did I find? The piece of "art" (I use that term loosely) that I created in my Spiritual Mentoring session shortly after becoming President of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. To my surprise and delight, the image spoke to me still as I considered the theme of our Fall Gathering "We are One: Widening the Circle".

Well, truth be told, it was actually singing: "Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still! Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide." (Gordon Light-More Voices #145 © 1994 Common Cup Company)

Within this picture, I see ever widening circles—the circle of our congregation, the circle of the region, reaching out to form the circle of the whole denomination.

This fall gathering, a significant part of our agenda will be dedicated to the proposals from our Regional Council to the General Council. As we do this work of faithfully considering where the spirit is calling us we are reminded that we are connected not just to those in our immediate vicinity but also to those in the wider church. We remember that we must take care with our words and decisions because they ripple out and affect many others in an ever-widening circle. It is our responsibility to draw our circle wider and ensure that we are considering, caring for and making space for all in our work and witness.

In the lead up to the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada we are especially mindful of all that we have accomplished through God—the stillpoint of the circle. As we gather together as the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council may we centre ourselves in that love and standing side by side, draw the circle wide! In love and hope,

Jennifer Irving, WOWRC President

Candidates:



Candidates:

Sandra Cable

Keith Lockhart

Ann Harbridge

Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes: In Memoriam:



WOWRC
WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
www.wowrcucc.ca

In Memoriam:

Ruth Long, CDM
The Rev. David Black
The Very Rev., The Honourable Dr. Lois Wilson
Rev. Brenda Fawkes
The Honourable Murray Sinclair



Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes:

Disbandment

Bluevale United Church June 30, 2024

Collaborative Agreements

St. John's United Church, Chesley and Tara United Church beginning September 1, 2024.

Emmanuel UC, First UC, Parkminster UC, Westminster UC all in Waterloo - Youth Program June 19, 2024

Wingham UC and Knox UC, Belgrave beginning May 2024

Section Two:

Congregational Support Commission

**Congregational Support Commission
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
Fall Meeting Report, Nov. 16, 2024**

The Congregational Support Commission is often a community of faiths connection to the Region. Our regional website lists “Connecting, Supporting, Transforming” as the key focus for the regional council. We assist communities of faith during times of transition, including when your minister leaves, when you are considering an amalgamation or disbandment or when you might be thinking about collaborating with another congregation or congregations. The responsibilities of the Commission include:

- The articulation of ministry (Community of Faith Profile)
- The use of financial and property resources
- Advise around governance
- The overall health and well-being of communities of faith, such as changes in the life cycle, dealing with real property etc.
- Amalgamations, Disbandments and Collaborations.

There are some excellent resources on the regional website that can help guide a community of faith in many aspects of church life <https://wowrccc.ca/toolkits/>

We are extremely grateful to the large number of Pastoral Charge Supervisors who take on the extra work of supporting congregations who are without ministry personnel. This important work insures a connection between the congregation and the wider church and provides the congregation with support around polity. In January a new policy regarding Pastoral Charge Supervisors came into effect which ensures that the pastoral charge supervisor is compensated for their time. More information about this new policy can be found at the toolkit link above under Toolkit #10.

As Chair, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the commission who are always prompt to respond to emails and take the work of our commission very seriously. Also a huge thank you to Sue Duliban who was our minute taker and who took care of things like Property Resolutions for the Commission. We wish her well in her retirement. And to John Neff, Minister for Congregational Support who does much work behind the scenes and between meetings.

Submitted by: Ann Harbridge, Commission Chair

Members of the Commission:

Rebekah Duncan, Norm Eygenraam, Lesley Fox, Bruce Gregersen, Marg Krauter, Peter Kudelka, Peter Kupfer, Sharon Norton, Colin Snyder, Roz Vincent-Haven

Human Resources Commission

Change and transition continue to be a part of the life of WOW region. Our changes are becoming less revolutionary and more evolutionary. The Human Resources (HR) commission is no different.

We have reached a point where our work has to be in harmony with other commissions and Communities of Faith (CoF). This is especially true of our work with the Congregational Support (CS) commission. It may be confusing, but CoF's work with both commissions. The CoF prepares their congregational profile which is reviewed by the CS Commission while job descriptions for ministry personnel, including students, are reviewed by the HR Commission.

We are looking at our processes, hoping to have our liaisons, who work with the CoF in their search process, to be better trained to understand change and to assist a CoF to chart their path forward.

The commission is deeply appreciative of the volunteers who serve as liaisons with each our CoF.

The commission is still under resourced. Volunteers for the work are welcome. Please contact myself or our Pastoral Relations minister, Micol Cottrell for more information on how you can serve.

We are thankful to three new commission members who have stepped forward since our spring meeting.

I would also like to express the commissions thanks to Doug Hayward, who has moved from Commission Chair to leading the important work of nurturing and supporting liaisons in our region.

The work of the HR commission is integral to the mission of every community of faith. Thank you for your engagement and support.

**David Shearman,
Chair,
Human Resources Commission,
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

Discipleship and Justice Commission

WOWRC Discipleship and Justice Commission Report for the Fall 2024 Meeting

The Discipleship & Justice Commission is tasked with providing information, education and opportunities for communities of faith and their members to deepen faith and strengthen service and witness. Over the past year, our commission has worked to carry out this mandate on a variety of fronts.

At the end of 2023, we received applications for the 2024 Mission Support Grants, discerned our way through them, and awarded grants to the following applicants...

Camp Bimini	\$15,000
Camp Menesetung	\$15,000
Christian Resource Centre	\$11,000
Grand River Resource Centre	\$4,000
Five Oaks	\$10,000
The Hub	\$17,500
Westminster United (Waterloo)	\$2,500
Ecumenical Chaplaincy - U. of Guelph	\$29,000
Grey-Bruce Chaplaincy	\$31,000
Total	\$135,000

Since WOWRC was formed, our commission has been guided by a set of Mission Support priorities - Right Relations, Camps/Youth/Faith Formation, Chaplaincies. Our commission feels it is an appropriate time to revisit these priorities and will be seeking input from the court at our Spring 2025 in-person meeting.

The Discipleship & Justice Commission also administers two other funds for the Regional Council. The first is a modest investment set aside to support university chaplaincy within Kitchener-Waterloo. After a number of years of having no applications, in 2024 we were able to award the full yearly amount of \$4,000 to First United (Waterloo) for the development of new programming with UWaterloo students.

The second fund is a much larger investment that is set aside for Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults. We are able to award up to \$65,000 each year, but have only had occasional requests come in. This year, we were able to use \$6,850 from this fund to subsidize participants from HF/ARW/WOW to attend Audacious Hope - the national UCC/Presbyterian YAYA event held at Brock University. We also approved \$2,000 to help fund a Mental Health Consultant for UCC Summer Camps across HF/ARW/WOW. \$8,000 was awarded to First United (Waterloo) for new programming, and \$4,000 was used to bring a top notch speaker (Jim Cain) to Audacious Hope. But apart from those projects, the Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults Fund went largely unused. We could have awarded 3x as many funds, if we had the applications! We want to encourage Communities of Faith to learn more about the Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults Fund, to dream big, and apply. The information is posted on the WOWRC website under Financial

Support, as is the fillable form used to apply. Like other Regional Council Grants, applications are considered twice a year - April 1 and October 1.

With our commission's Events Budget, we were able to support programming that helped connect, inspire, and inform people from across our region. These events include (but are not limited to): the 360 Anti-Racism program with Alcris Limongi; a Music Ministry webinar with Rev. Jeffrey Dale; the Listening to Voices for Peace and Justice in Palestine event hosted by Harcourt United; a Duty of Care 101 training event with Terri Sparling; the Kairos Blanket Exercise for KW churches; a Basic Income Info Night in Guelph; the UNJPPI Conference in Toronto; Kids Across the Region; a Fishbowl Workshop bringing together youth and older adults; and the Grassy Narrows River Run direct action in Toronto. If you have a justice or faith formation event with a scope that extends beyond your Community of Faith, reach out to our commission - we may be able to help.

In July we conducted an accreditation visit to Camp Menesetung. They met or exceeded all the camping standards laid out by the United Church of Canada and we appreciated the tour of their site and the run through of all their policies and documents. Faith formation at Camp Menesetung is called "Love Out Loud" and utilizes the expertise of visiting clergy from local churches. Particularly encouraging is Camp Menesetung's emphasis on inclusion and diversity. 2024 was the final year for Executive Director Clayton Peters, who has been directing at Camp Menesetung since 2016. Thank you Clayton! Sean O'Leary is the camp's new Executive Director. He can be reached at sean@campmenesetung.ca. Please keep Camp Menesetung in your prayers, encourage registrations, and reach out if you can support their ministry financially. They are particularly in need of Communities of Faith to sponsor cabins.

In February, our commission met with Emily Cowley, the Director of Silver Lake Camp. Emily noted the challenges SLC is having with raising up new leadership, the steady growth in registrations since COVID, and their big fundraising campaign for a much needed new Dining Hall. Emily can be reached at slcdirectors@gmail.com.

In March, we met with Carol Young, the Director of Camp Bimini. Carol noted the addition of a day camp program this summer, measures to improve facilities, increased staff wages (and the difference it makes for attracting quality staff), many school programs using the site over May and June, and the support from local churches. Carol can be reached at coordinator@campbimini.ca

All camps mentioned the difficulties of responding to the mental health needs of campers and staff, the financial burden carried by camps (especially with rising food costs), the need to keep staff wages competitive, and the logistical challenges of updating aging infrastructure so as to be accessible and inclusive of diverse populations. One way our commission hopes to respond is by continuing to develop the Mental Health Consultant role that was piloted this summer. Are there ways your Community of Faith can support our camps?

Over the first few months of 2024, our commission worked hard to prepare, equip, and encourage WOWRC Communities of Faith to engage with Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. With coordination from Cathy Hird, Therese Samuel, and John Egger, a team of volunteers reached out to every WOWRC Community of Faith and helped answer questions, provided support, and gave nudges as the deadline approached. And did our region ever come through! We had an exceptionally high response rate,

and heard just how important the conversations were for framing our commitment to Right Relations. The remit passed, and we took another step in our commitment to walk together in good ways with the Indigenous peoples in our midst.

As part of the evaluation of the regional structure, we realized that a lot of our commission's work over the first few years has been about resourcing Communities of Faith through the various funds we administer. We are now hoping to layer on a commitment to amplify and share stories and information about the different networks, ministries, and justice initiatives across our region. In many ways, information and stories are trickier to distribute than funds. But with God's grace and your support, we hope we can bring some energy and enthusiasm to this work. Please reach out if you have an idea or a question or a bit of news to share!

Lastly, I want to say a big thank you to our commission members and to the staff who work with us. You are all amazing! God is good.

Submitted with gratitude.

Rev. Andrew Hyde
WOWRC Discipleship & Justice Commission Chair

Section Three: Meeting Materials

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 2024-05-25/26;
3. Receive the minutes of the following meetings of the
 - i. Executive
24-06-19
24-07-17
 - ii. Congregational Support Commission
2024-06-19
 - iii. Human Resources Commission
2024-06-19
2024-08-20
2024-09-17

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

4. Appoint Gary Clark as Parliamentarian;
5. Appoint Terry Smith as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
6. Name Andrea Allan to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
7. Name President Jennifer Irving, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Terry Smith, Executive Minister Mark Laird, Executive Assistant, Max Watkinson and Recording Secretary Dawn Blanchard, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
8. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call, and Grace United Church, 310 12th Street, Hanover, ON.
9. 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);
10. Make all guests corresponding members;

11. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 12:30 p.m., Saturday, November 16, 2024.
12. 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 – Finance Proposal Budget 2025

Title: Reviewing 2024 Year-to-Date and Adopting 2025 Operating Budget
Origin: Treasurer

What is the issue?

Transparency and accountability are key elements of financial management in any charity. It is important that the regional council is guided by these principles and models these practices for the communities of faith within its bounds. The regional council needs to understand both the strengths and challenges of its financial situation to be able to function effectively in the present and to ensure it is well positioned for the future.

Establishing a budget for 2025 is one step in this process and will guide the Executive in its management of regional council resources.

Why is this issue important?

The regional council is still becoming familiar with its financial situation and its financial reporting.

Income

The regional council receives two grants to fund its operation:
Assessment Grant: For Governance and Shared Services
Mission and Service Grant: For Mission and Ministry

The regional council also receives funds from:

1. Investment income
2. 50% grant from Archives Reserve to cover its costs
3. Regional council share (25%) of proceeds of disbanding congregations.

Expenses

Expenses are reported according to the ministry they support to help illustrate how the regional council is using its assets to meet its priorities. The budget categories and the staff positions assigned to each are listed below. AA refers to Administrative Assistant.

Ministry	Purpose	WOW’s Share of the following Positions
Regional Operations	Operation of the regional council	Executive Minister Executive Assistant .5 Administrative Assistant (AA), D&J and Finance
Communities of Faith	Partnering with congregations	Minister, Congregational Support

Pastoral Relations	Supporting the formation and nurture of healthy pastoral relationships	Minister, Pastoral Relations .5 AA, Communication and Records
Communication	Newsletters, Websites	.5 AA, Communication and Records .8 AA, Website Management
Connecting	Providing opportunities to come together including regional council meetings	Minister, Pastoral Support
Faith Formation	Nurturing discipleship	Minister, Faith Formation .25 AA, D&J and Finance
Chaplaincy	Supporting ministries in post secondary settings	
Social Justice	Seeking to be faithful in the world	.5 Minister, Social Justice .5 Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations .25 AA, D&J and Finance
Right Relations	Deepening understand and relationship with Indigenous Ministries	.5 Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations
Office Operations	Office supplies and equipment	
Building Expenses	Cost to maintain building	
Emerging Ministries	Unbudgeted expenses responding to an emerging situation or to the regional council's exercise of discipline.	

The regional council has established an investment policy and created an investment portfolio that it anticipates will help address the gap between increasing expenses and diminishing grants.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might:

1. Receive the internal 2024 operating statement to date for information;
2. Receive the 2023 Auditors' Report
3. Endorse the following principles for the 2025 budget:
 - a. Operating expenses increased by 4.5% for inflation.
 - b. Prioritize Mission Support grants.
4. Appoint KPMG LLP as auditors for the 2024 Financial Year.
5. Adopt the proposed 2025 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.

Budget 2025:

	2024 Budget	as at Sept 30	2025 Budget
Income			
Assessment	325,000	256,599	325,000
Mission and Service	180,000	180,000	180,000
Salary Support	68,340	50,250	69,707
Other Grants (Archives)	20,000	19,000	20,000
Other Revenue		24,827	
PTCC Grant	60,000	70,000	82,000
Property Fund	19,782	14,836	19,871
Investment Income	55,000	69,076	55,000
Transfers	89,178	25,408	91,710
Total	817,300	709,996	843,288
Expenses			
<u>Regional Operations</u>			
Staff	101,472	77,530	98,409
Travel	6,000	2,176	6,000
Staff Support	2,000	605	2,000
Exec Meetings	5,000	3,209	5,000
Exec Events	5,000	1,456	5,000
Archives	40,000	30,000	40,000
Corporations	2,000	1,725	2,000
Legal	10,000	1,639	10,000
Learning Fund	30,000	1,000	30,000
Professional Fees	20,000	16,850	25,000
Section J			
Total	221,472	136,190	223,409
<u>Communities of Faith</u>			
Staff	124,520	95,816	128,642
Travel	6,000	1,857	6,000
CSC Meetings	3,000	75	3,000
CSC Events	10,000	1,000	10,000
Total	143,520	98,748	147,642
<u>Pastoral Relations</u>			
Staff	48,281	36,575	50,959
Travel	3,000	314	3,000
HRC Meetings	3,000	280	3,000
HRC Events	10,000	1,000	10,000
Emergency Fund	1,000		1,000

Total	65,281	38,169	67,959
<u>Connecting</u>			
Staff	39,526	30,409	41,887
Travel	2,000	988	2,000
RC Meetings	34,500	47,410	34,500
*Mission Support Grants			
Total	76,026	78,807	78,387
<u>Communication</u>			
Staff	34,631	28,922	36,617
Travel	1,500		1,500
*Mission Support Grants			
Total	36,131	28,922	38,117
<u>Social Justice and Outreach</u>			
Staff	31,962	25,175	33,606
Travel	3,500	343	3,500
D & J Commission meetings (50%)	1,500	60	1,500
D & J Commission Events (50%)	5,000	3,370	5,000
*Mission Support Grants			
Total	41,962	28,948	43,606
<u>Faith Formation</u>			
Staff	41,507	31,922	42,307
Travel	2,500	280	2,500
D & J Commission meetings (50%)	1,500		1,500
D&J Commission Events (50%)	5,000		5,000
*Mission Support Grants			
Total	50,507	32,202	51,307
<u>Chaplaincy</u>			
*Mission Support Grants			
<u>Right Relations</u>			
Staff	17,803	14,050	18,892
Travel	2,000	29	2,000
Other	500		500
Total	20,303	14,079	21,392
<u>Emerging Ministry</u>			
		92	
<u>Office and Admin costs</u>			

GCO Acctg & IT	40,000	20,270	40,000
Office Operations	25,000	18,799	25,000
Total	65,000	39,069	65,000
<u>Building Expenses</u>	12,500	8,132	12,500
Total			
<u>Mission Support Grants</u>	135,000	101,250	135,000
Total	867,702	604,608	884,319
Difference	-50,402	105,388	-41,031

Auditor's Report 2023:

Click this link to review the Auditor's Report

<https://wowrcucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WOWRC-2023-DRAFT-2RRR-FULL-FS-ppd-Aug-23-2024-002-1.pdf>

Proposal #3 – Bridge Loan Fund and Matching Grants Fund

PROPOSAL #3

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

2024 11 16

Title: Bridge Loan and Matching Grants Fund

Originating Body: WOW Executive

What is the issue?

When congregations disband and sell their property, a portion of the proceeds comes to the Regional Council to be used to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to Communities of Faith and for new church development. The issue is that this statement is vague enough to be able to do a lot of things, but it is vague enough that it becomes challenging to act upon it.

Why is this issue important?

As a Regional Council we want to honor the legacy of those who have paved the way before us, and to be able to continue to help serve active communities of faith.

What might Western Ontario Waterways do?

The Regional Council might create the following fund setting it up with a transfer of \$500,000 from the property fund:

The Bridging Loans and Matching Grants Fund

Terms of Reference

Available Funds

Bridging Loans and Matching Grants to a Maximum of \$50,000. The fund must contain \$150,000 to start the next calendar year, provided funds are available from the sale of church property.

Granting Body and Oversight

WOWRC Executive

The Executive to report annually to the Regional Council on how the funds have supported communities of faith with bridging loans or matching grants for debt reduction.

Criteria

- A) Bridge financing loans, to a max of \$50,000 at 4% interest to be paid back on a 3 year term, repayment begins after 6 months, those 6 months at 0% interest.
- B) Matching Grants up to \$50,000 given to communities of faith who hold a capital fundraiser to help pay off debt.
- C) A CoF can apply for a matching grant once every 3 years.
- D) If the congregation disbands within 3 years of receiving a matching grant, then the grant is to be repaid to the regional property fund from the proceeds of the sale of the building before any disbursements are made.

Procedure

Applications to be completed by a Community of Faith and submitted to the WOWRC Executive.

Proposal #4 – Congregational Legacy Fund

PROPOSAL #4

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

2024 11 16

Title: Congregational Legacy Fund
Originating Body: WOW Executive

What is the issue?

When congregations disband and sell their property, a portion of the proceeds comes to the Regional Council to be used to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to Communities of Faith and for new church development. The issue is that this statement is vague enough to be able to do a lot of things, but it is vague enough that it becomes challenging to act upon it.

Why is this issue important?

As a Regional Council we want to honor the legacy of those who have paved the way before us, and to be able to continue to help serve active communities of faith.

What might Western Ontario Waterways do?

The Regional Council might create the following fund setting it up with a transfer of \$200 000 from the property fund:

The Congregational Legacy Fund

Terms of Reference

Available Funds

Available funds per year: maximum of \$50,000 in total with a maximum of \$10,000 per application. When new money comes into the Property Fund the Executive will assess if funds need to be added to the Congregational Legacy Fund.

Granting Body and Oversight

WOWRC Executive

The Executive to report annually to the Regional Council on how the funds have supported new community of faith initiatives

Criteria

To be given to communities of faith who are looking to expand their ministry, or create something new within their ministry.

Procedure

Applications to be completed by a Community of Faith and submitted to the WOWRC Executive.

Proposal #5 – Clergy Salary Fund

PROPOSAL #5

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

2023 11 16

Title: Clergy Salary Fund

Originating Body: WOW Executive

What is the issue?

When congregations disband and sell their property, a portion of the proceeds comes to the Regional Council to be used to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to Communities of Faith and for new church development. The issue is that this statement is vague enough to be able to do a lot of things, but it is vague enough that it becomes challenging to act upon it.

Why is this issue important?

As a Regional Council we want to honor the legacy of those who have paved the way before us, and to be able to continue to help serve active communities of faith.

What might Western Ontario Waterways do?

The Regional Council might create the following fund setting it up with a transfer of \$200 000 from the property fund:

The Clergy Salary Fund

Terms of Reference

Available Funds

Will accept 3 requests per year. Each request will be given a 3-year plan. When new money comes into the Property Fund the Executive will assess if funds need to be added to the Clergy Salary Fund.

Granting Body and Oversight

WOWRC Executive

The Executive to report annually to the Regional Council on how the funds have supported communities of faith maintaining or increasing their ministry time.

Criteria

- A) To be given to communities of faith who are looking to increase their ministry hours (example from .25 to .5).
- B) To be given to communities of faith who can show that they will not be able to maintain their current ministry hrs moving forward.
- C) If the congregation disbands within 3 years of receiving the final grant, then the entire 3 year grant is to be repaid to the regional property fund from the proceeds of the sale of the building before any disbursements are made

Three-year plan:

For the first year the Fund will grant 50% of the cost increase for the increased ministry hours.

The second year will be 30% and the third year will be 20%.

For both A and B the community of faith needs to provide to the Executive their plan for being able to continue with the level of ministry both during and after the funding has finished.

Once the three-year cycle is complete that community of faith is ineligible for this fund for another 3 years.

The Community of faith will need to report to the Executive annually how the funding has helped make a difference for their ministry.

Procedure

Applications to be completed by a Community of Faith and submitted to the WOWRC Executive.

Proposal GC45 #6 – Adherents

45th General Council, August 7-12, 2025 Calgary, Alberta For Action

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Proposal 6 A proposal to allow adherents to be elected to Governing Bodies of Communities of Faith in the United Church of Canada.

Origin: **Glen Morris United Church, Official Board**
 Congregational Support Commission, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

1. What is the issue? Why is it important?

Glen Morris United Church and likely other small churches have difficulty filling all positions on their Governing Bodies due to the limited number of full members in their congregations. Many adherents are faithful and devout Christians who possess skills and resources to become invaluable members of Governing Bodies. They are willing to be nominated and elected to Governing Bodies to contribute to the life of work of their churches. this is an important issue since it very likely affects United Churches throughout Canada.

2. What is happening now?

The Manual of the United Church of Canada (Bylaw B7.3.1) restricts (lay) membership on Governing Bodies to full members, with one exception – if Regional Council grants approval of an exception based on “special circumstances”. The Manual does not provide a reason for this restriction on adherents; it does not give any definition of “special circumstances”; and it does not clarify the “exception” granting process.

3. What is the recommendation?

It is the recommendation of the Official Board of Glen Morris United Church that General Council revise The Manual Bylaw B7.3.1. as follows:

B7.3.1. General

The Governing Body has the following members:

A The full members of the congregation elected by the congregation or pastoral charge

Change to read: The full members **and adherents** of the congregation elected by the congregation or pastoral charge, **with the majority being full members of the congregation.**

B Unchanged

C Unchanged

D Unchanged

E Unchanged

EXCEPTION CLAUSE - change

Exception: In special circumstances with the regional council’s approval.

There is one exception to the requirement in paragraphs (a) and (e) above for governing body members to be full members of the congregation: **If a congregation wants to name a governing body with less than 50% as full members, they must seek regional council approval.**

4. Background information:

Glen Morris is a true community church. Our 2023 Membership Roll lists 72 resident full members and 35 adherents, so adherents represent 33% of our congregation. Being the only place of worship in the Village of Glen Morris, the church has attracted a congregation that hails from various religious and denominational backgrounds. Our congregation includes Anglicans, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and probably others who, understandably have not become full members. People have their own reasons for not wishing to be full members, which we should not question. Consequently, we have a disproportionate number of faithful, supportive and deeply involved adherents who willingly give of their time and talent to advance the interests of our pastoral charge. This extends to their commitment to the spiritual life of the church, as evidenced by their participation in publicly reciting various affirmations of faith or creeds during church services. In addition to this, there is the option of having a covenanting service with all elected officials so that there is a sense of dedication to the community of faith for all people serving (regardless of their membership status).

To deny adherents a formal place on our Official Board is antithetical to the full potential of our Governing Body. This situation is all the more problematic since (like other churches), we have a small number of resident full members (72). Some of those members do not take any part in the life and work of the church, so they are not considered candidates for nomination to the Official Board. Our church has 35 supporting adherents, some of whom are similarly inactive in their attendance and contribution to the church, so they would not be considered candidates for nomination either.

We take reassurance from the following principle in the Preamble to The Manual: *“The Manual must strike a balance between enough regulation for the United Church to function in a fair and orderly way, and enough flexibility so that courts/councils and people are free to carry out ministry in ways, both traditional and innovative, that meet local needs”*. The Preamble goes on to elaborate on this principle as follows: *“The United Church exists in a wide variety of contexts. There have always been challenges in setting policies and procedures for ministry settings that may be urban, rural, large, small, and that differ in the strength of their human and financial resources. The focus in The Manual is on broad policy statements rather than specific provisions for every conceivable situation because ... this invites people to think for themselves by acting in the spirit of the policies with good will and common sense to achieve a just result in a particular situation”*.

5. How does this proposal help us to live into our church’s commitments on equity?

This proposal creates opportunities for people to discern their faith journeys by experiencing the fullness of the life and work of the church which can be particularly meaningful for people who are either newcomers to Canada and still learning about the denomination; for those who have left other churches; and for those who are healing wounds related to religious-based trauma.

It is also possible that more Indigenous People, members of minority groups, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and people with disabilities will be nominated for membership on Governing Bodies if the larger pool of candidates includes both adherents and full members.

Proposal GC45 #7 – Proxy Voting

PROPOSAL #7 : Amendment to Voting Procedures at Congregational Meetings (Manual B.5.6)

Origin: Lakeshore United Church Council, Lakeshore United Church, Goderich Ontario

1. The Issue

We believe God is calling us to request that General Council make amendments to voting procedures at Congregational Meetings that would allow for exceptions from the general rule in certain circumstances: e.g. considering to become an Affirming congregation; approving a Living Faith Story.

Why is this issue important?

We decided to become an Affirming Congregation in October 2023 at a duly-called congregational meeting. There were a number of members who were not able to be present in person on the day of the meeting. Some were away from the community; some adults and youth had to be at work; others had health issues; several members in long-term care facilities or their own homes have mobility issues. Offering the chance to be present through online technology might have been considered; however, not all our members are familiar with using such technology, some have no devices. All of these persons matter to us and all of them are part of God's family who share community in our congregation. (There is also an assumption that the technology option is available to all; however, because of geography or economics that is not true in our nation, most commonly in more remote rural areas. Using such technology during congregational meetings can be problematic when voting on motions is by secret ballot. How do online participants keep their votes a secret?) The process for becoming an Affirming Congregation requires several months or more of preparation, study, education, opportunities for discussion. We did this for a year and a half. When our Affirming Team had drafted the "Vision Statement" we were inviting the congregation to approve, it was circulated in print and by email to everyone. There were also three final Talking Circle opportunities prior to the meeting to engage in discussion and conversation. Our Affirming Team realized a number of members would not be able to be present at the called meeting, and did offer advance polling. Then, we discovered that was not allowed. We counted those votes but did not record them in the final reported totals sent on to Affirm United. The United Church has been intent on being an inclusive church. As a denomination that celebrates unity in diversity, she includes the mantra from Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17 on her official crest "That All May Be One". That same prayerful desire is expressed in Psalm 132:1: "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (NRSV). The intent to be inclusive is woven into our "Song of Faith" (2006):

"In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God. We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life. We can grow in wisdom and compassion. We can recognize all people as kin."

"He (Jesus) crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender. He preached and practised

unconditional love—love of God, love of neighbour, love of friend, love of enemy—and he commanded his followers to love one another as he had loved them.”

The requirements for voting at Congregational Meetings (Manual B.5.6) meant leaving a number of participants in our community of faith feeling alienated and excluded. Some felt hurt. Some were disgruntled. We believe that the policy in this instance is unjust.

2. How might the General Council or the General Council Executive respond to this issue?

If this proposal is approved by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at its General meeting and forwarded with concurrence, the Church Council of Lakeshore United Church Goderich requests **that Manual Section B.5.6 be amended to allow for voting by proxy, advance poll, ballots collected by congregational visitors, etc., at Congregational Meetings where the issue to be decided has had a sufficient amount of discussion and conversation ahead of time so that members not able to be present at the time of the meeting can have a vote that will be counted.** The Holy Spirit has also been present with them in those previous discussions. The exceptions to the general rule for voting procedures would only be allowed in matters that can meet the criteria of sufficient discussion and conversation previous to the time of meeting. Decisions such as becoming an Affirming Congregation, approving a Living Faith Story would be two examples of such matters.

3. What will be the impact?

With regard to the Strategic Plan such amendments would assist with the objectives to Embolden Justice and Strengthen Invitation.

The costs would be Staff time and printing costs to make the Manual revisions. But, as there are always revisions to the Manual arising out of meetings of General Council, we suspect there are budget allowances already made for those possibilities.

Communities of faith will be impacted in ways that promote harmony and not upset. The same might be possible for Regional Council representatives in certain allowable instances.

Risk management issues would revolve around defining and substantiating “sufficient”.

4. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?

This proposal is all about ensuring equity of access and voice.

Proposal #8 – Candidate Support Network

PROPOSAL #8

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Title: Student and Candidate Support Network

Originating Body: WOW Executive

What is the issue?

Students and Candidates for Ministry are a part of a Regional Council but have no standing in the Council unless they are at a point in their education where they are serving in a supervised ministry. This means they have no natural way to build relationship or learn about the Regional Council.

Traditionally in the United Church Presbytery and Conference Education and Students Committees were responsible for oversight and support of inquiries, students and candidates for ministry. In our current structure these responsibilities fall to the Office of Vocation through the Candidacy Board with support being offered by the individual's Circle of Accompaniment.

What has been lost is a connection to the Regional Council. Until a student is in a supervised ministry, which differs for each student depending on their path, they have no place in the structure of the Regional Council unless they represent their own community of faith. This means they have no natural way to develop relationships in the regional council or way to grow in understanding of the wider church. While they create natural relationships within their own education program, there is no place to connect with and learn from students/candidates from other programs.

Why is this issue Important?

The Candidacy Path and paid accountable Ministry can be very isolating. The more relationships individuals build before and after their ordination or commissioning the more support they will have. The stronger the relationships within our regional councils the better equipped we will be to connect, support and transform our communities of faith to deep spirituality and daring justice.

What might Western Ontario Waterways do?

Establish a Student and Candidate Support Network

Mandate

The Student Candidate Support Network's responsibility is to provide opportunities to build relationships with individuals on the candidacy path

The responsibilities of the Network include:

- connect with students as they are identified by the Office of Vocation and orient them to the region
- celebrate the approval of candidates (The Manual C.2.7 a) in person or on Zoom at a regional council meeting,
- support opportunities for individuals to connect with others on the candidacy pathway within the region
- ensure students/candidates are aware of learning opportunities within the regional council where they will be able to build relationships.

The Network will be seven to 12 people selected through the Recruitment process and will include at least one ordained minister, one diaconal minister, one student/candidate for ordination, one student/candidate for diaconal ministry and one lay person.

The Network would relate to the Human Resources Commission and the Pastoral Relations Minister. They would have access to admin support to set up Zoom gatherings once or twice a year. An optional in person gathering once a year could be funded.

Proposal #9 – Sacraments for Retired Diaconal Ministers

Proposal: Administration of sacrament for retired Diaconal Ministers

Origin: Judy Zarubick

1. What is the issue? Why is it important?

Many diaconal ministers have years of experience administering the sacraments in their communities of faith and in other ministry positions. When Diaconal ministers retire, this licence is removed. Currently, many communities of faith are seeking ministry personnel for pulpit supply with the hope that they might be able to conduct the sacraments as part of that supply opportunity. While many diaconal ministers would like to support these communities of faith by honouring their request to administer the sacraments, the current policy does not make this possible for all retired diaconal ministers in all regions. In addition, there are many retired diaconal ministers who faithfully serve their Region by fulfilling the role of Pastoral Charge supervisors. One of the roles for Pastoral Charge supervisors can be to administer the sacraments to communities of faith over which they have supervisory responsibilities; communities of faith with whom they have established strong supportive relationships.

2. What is happening now?

Currently there is inconsistency between regions with some retired diaconal ministers continuing to be licensed while others are not. This inconsistency creates confusion for diaconal ministers as well as misunderstanding for communities of faith who rely upon ministry personnel to enhance the vitality of their communities through sharing the gifts of the sacraments. This confusion is particularly acute when a region appoints a Pastoral Charge Supervisor to support and meet the needs of a community of faith, only to discover that they must search for someone to administer the sacraments. This adds additional anxiety in an already stressful time in the life of a community of faith.

3. What is the recommendation?

This proposal asks that Regional Council provide license to retired Diaconal Ministers on request. The General Council could authorize an amendment to the current policy by removing the “or retired diaconal ministers” line from I.2.4.1(a):

I.2.4 Licences to Administer Sacraments

I.2.4.1 The regional council may grant a licence to administer the sacraments to

a) a designated lay minister, candidate serving under appointment, admission minister serving under appointment, diaconal supply, ordained supply, ~~or retired diaconal minister;~~

and adding to I.2.4.2:

I.2.4.2 Diaconal Ministers

The regional council must grant a diaconal minister a licence to administer the sacraments when the diaconal minister is serving in a call or appointment, or are employed in another ministry position **or when a retired diaconal minister makes a request for a license**. The licence will be for the duration of the call, appointment, or other ministry position.

4. Background information:

In 2018 GC 43 received the proposal “MNWO 03 Sacramental Licence For Retired Diaconal Ministers” addressing this same issue. The suggested way forward from the Facilitation Group included *direction to the General Secretary to conduct a comprehensive study on these issues (including all issues raised in proposals MNWO 01 and MNWO 02 on rural and small church ministry) and develop a strategy for meeting the ministry needs of all communities of faith, including access to the sacraments.* This work was then given to the Ministry Streams task group (appointed late 2019) to consider. The task group brought forward a number of recommendations to the 44th GC in 2022 related to small and rural churches. However, none of these recommendations were related to licensing retired diaconal ministers to administer sacraments for communities of faith who do not have their own ministry personnel. The “may” language in I.2.4.1(a) remains unchanged.

5. How does this proposal help us to live into our church’s commitments on equity?

Many communities of faith are without called or appointed ministry personnel. These communities of faith, especially those in isolated, rural and small communities, face an increased burden to make sure their worship services take place. They do not have regular access to the sacraments that nourish and strengthen them. Granting permission to administer the sacraments to retired diaconal ministers who make such a request indicates that our church supports these vulnerable communities of faith. It also addresses the discrimination against Diaconal Ministers who throughout their ministries have strengthened their communities of faith through sharing the sacraments – only to discover that they can no longer offer such support upon their retirement. This proposal supports Regions in their search for Pastoral Charge Supervisors who can provide the essentials of ministry to the communities of faith under their care without additional administrative action. This proposal would ensure that any retired diaconal minister who is willing to support communities of faith in this way, would be able to do so, simply by requesting the license from their Region. This proposal will also help to remove the regional inequities and inconsistencies in the practice of granting license to administer sacraments to retired diaconal ministers.

Proposal #10 – Closing Motions

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 November 16, 2024 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next spring regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the spring of 2025;
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 November 16-17, 2024 meeting of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministries Service on Sunday, November 17, 2024.

Notes: