

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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## REPORT OF THE CONVENOR OF THE REGIONAL GATHERING

When I accepted the nudge to seek the position of Convenor of the Regional Gathering for Living Skies Regional Council (Thank you, Barb MacNaughton!), in Swift Current in 2019, my primary concern was about my ability to chair the 2020 Annual Meeting in Humboldt. Over the past ten years I have been involved enough with the inner workings of Annual Meetings to know that these meetings require certain skills. And, I was mindful of the recent Presidents of Saskatchewan Conference whose steps I would be following – people who served with integrity and grace and joy. Was it possible for me to continue the legacy?

Well, the coronavirus and COVID-19 made my concern a moot point – we weren't able to hold an in-person Regional Gathering, so there would be no chair to fill (at least in the former, familiar way). The result of this is that my attention shifted to other aspects of the role.

Although it wasn't clear to me at the time of my nomination, one aspect of the role of Convenor of the Regional Gathering is to act as an ambassador for the United Church in our Region. In the first few months of this term the tasks of this were expressed with a request to recognize a long-term music ministry, an invitation to attend the installation of the 23 Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, and an invitation to attend the opening of the Saskatchewan Legislature. Thankfully, the recognition of Hart Godden was an easy task (Interesting Fact: Moderator Richard Bott and I used the same Psalm in our letters to Hart, without organizing it! (Psalm 95:1-2)). I am extremely grateful that Rev. Tricia Gerhard (Chairperson of the Living Skies Executive) stepped in to represent me/us at the installation of the Lieutenant Governor. Unfortunately, neither of us were able to attend the opening of the Legislature.

As the fall of 2019 unfolded, Tricia and I talked about the value of working together, though the fundamental expectations of our roles were different. We talked about the importance of knowing what each other was doing in our work for the Region, and how “being on the same page” as much as we were able, would hopefully provide a sense of unity within Living Skies. The result of this cooperative relationship was a huge relief to me as we collaborated on letters to our siblings in Nova Scotia (Region 15) in the wake of the shooting deaths in April, and responded to the Saskatoon churches (United, Anglican and Unitarian) and St. Andrew's College in the wake of hate graffiti in May, and offered pastoral guidance to the people and churches throughout Living Skies, in response to the closure of church sanctuaries and the huge changes brought on by COVID-19.

I have appreciated the opportunities that have allowed Tricia and I to work together. I am especially grateful for her leadership of the Executive and want to acknowledge the tremendous amount of extra work that she has done, on our behalf, because of the current pandemic. I also appreciate that I have been invited to attend Executive meetings as a corresponding member, and I want to thank all those who volunteer their time to serve us in that capacity.

As I write this report, I have been home a couple days following the Celebration of Ministry Tour that began in Tisdale, went through Grenfell and concluded in Regina (September 25-27). This event would have (under “normal” circumstances) taken place as one service, in one place, with upwards of 300 people in attendance. Again, the coronavirus forced improvisation upon us, and the result was this past weekend's epic tour. It was amazing!

It was wonderful to celebrate new ministries in our United Church of Canada, in the National Indigenous Council and in our Living Skies Regional Council. I believe that our church is so much richer for the commitment and faith of Rev. Hoeun Lee and Rev. Hyun Heo who were admitted from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and Rev. Deb Anderson-Pratt and Rev. Bruce Kakakaway, who were newly ordained, following their studies and training at the Sandy Sauleaux Centre.

The Celebration of Ministry Tour also reminded me of how hard the staff of Living Skies work, and how committed they are to the health and success of the church in our Region. It was a privilege to make the tour with Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister) and Tracy Murton (Pastoral Relations Minister), because they were so generous with their care, guidance, wisdom and joy. Experiencing this reminds me of all the other emails, ZOOM conversations and connections I have shared with the other Living Skies staff (Bev Diebert, Heather Dootoff, Julie Graham, Madeleine McLuhan-Myers, Jamie McKay, Karen Medland, Kent Mohn, Charlene Burns, and Jane Harding). Friends, we are exceptionally blessed!

When I accepted the nudge to seek the position of Convenor of the Regional Gathering for Living Skies Regional Council, the term was for one year – until the rise of the next Regional Gathering. Again, the coronavirus has changed that, and my term has been extended, indefinitely. As a result, I expect to be with you all, virtually, on October 28 and November 4, as we address the emergent business of the Region electronically. Between now and then, and beyond, it is hard to say what other things I will be called to do on your behalf, but know that I will, to the best of my ability, and God willing, do them with integrity, grace and joy, as I have learned from my predecessors.

Blessings,  
Rob Reed, Diaconal Minister.

**People with whom we are Celebrating  
at the 2020 Annual Event of Regional Gathering**

<u><b>ORDINANDS</b></u>	<u><b>ADMITTANDS</b></u>
Deb Anderson-Pratt Bruce Kakakaway	Hyun Heo Hoeun Lee

**Those Celebrating Anniversaries**

<p><u><b>65 YEARS</b></u> Arthur Cross</p> <p><u><b>60 YEARS</b></u> Walter Farquharson David Petrie</p> <p><u><b>55 YEARS</b></u> Alexander Taylor</p> <p><u><b>50 YEARS</b></u> Chuck Alton</p>	<p><u><b>40 YEARS</b></u> Grace Armstrong Nancy Olson</p> <p><u><b>35 YEARS</b></u> Sandra Beardsall Carolyn Conarroe Janet Coffey-Olson Faye Ford Earl Grigg Janae Brownley Ronald McConnell Ivan Wilson</p>	<p><u><b>30 YEARS</b></u> Jack (John) Bylsma Carolyn Woodall Daryl Woods</p> <p><u><b>25 YEARS</b></u> Joan Brown Christa Eidsness Sharon Ferguson-Hood Eileen Fogarty Brian Mee Don Retzlaff Celia Ricker Heather Wyatt</p>
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**Those Retiring**

Catherine Coates Wendy Gibson Elizabeth Goodson Darilyn Grigg	Marg Janick-Grayston Donna Rumpel Salesi Takau Ursula Wiig
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**Those for whom we mourn:**

Ray Griffin Irene Gibson Marguerite Dougherty Elaine La Marche William "Bill" Gilmer Larry Edwards Bob Armstrong	Ron Sutton Dale Wiggins Brian Ast Sharon Jeeves Dorothy Morrow Jennifer Sigurdson	Alice McFarlane John Yeo Mildred Morrison Roger Argue Roselis Ward James Ingham William "Bill" Adamson
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**CONVENOR OF THE REGIONAL GATHERING  
ROB REED, DIACONAL MINISTER**

I live in Carnduff, Saskatchewan, with my spouse, Susan, who ministers there, with the people of St. Andrew's United Church. I have two grown children who live in Camrose, Alberta, which is my hometown. Besides the church, my passions include music, reading and writing, gardening, and walking.

I returned to the church as an adult, with a young family. Early in that return, I was enchanted by the music of handbells and a sermon that seemed to speak directly to my life (I can't remember if it was Luke 15:11-32, or not). My involvement in my home congregation and Coronation Presbytery was fast and frenetic: I joined choirs, served on committees, led Youth Groups, and chaired the local church Board.

When significant changes occurred in my professional and personal life, my relationship with the church also changed. Feeling a call to ministry, I became a Staff Associate with Sherwood Park United Church. During this five-year appointment, I began discernment, which led me to the Centre for Christian Studies. I was commissioned to diaconal ministry in 2010, through Alberta and Northwest Conference. As part of that process, I was transferred to Saskatchewan Conference, and settled to the Gainsborough-Carievale Pastoral Charge, where I had served as a student, since 2007, and continue to serve, today.

Serving the church in Saskatchewan has included active involvement in the ministry of Twin Valleys Presbytery, serving as Presbytery chairperson and Administration, Finance and Property chairperson. At the Conference level I served as co-convenor of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, was part of the Music Team (twice), and parliamentarian (twice). More recently, I have worked with Pastoral Charges who are in times of significant transition.

On the national level, I served on the Planning Team for the Designated Lay Ministry Program, from 2011 to 2017, first at Calling Lakes Centre and later at St. Andrew's College.

Two of the most impactful experiences of my faith journey have been my participation on a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (2008), and my pilgrimage with Susan, of El Camino de Santiago de Compostela (The Way of St. James) (2014).

My call to serve as Convenor of the Regional Gathering of Living Skies Regional Council was as much a surprise to me as it might have been to you! Still, I am ever-grateful for all the opportunities I have received, to learn and serve within our United Church of Canada.

**CHAIR OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL  
TRICIA GERHARD**

Tricia is in ministry with the people of Sunset United Church in Regina. A Vancouverite by birth but a Prairie girl by choice, Tricia has been in Saskatchewan for 16 years working in various pastoral charges both rural and urban. She has had various roles in the Region (Conference) and Presbytery (when it existed), but the role of Chair of Executive has been the most challenging and intriguing so far. She is married to David, and mother to Sophia and Jacob. When there are moments of free time in life, Tricia enjoys reading, crafting, and baking.

**LETTER FROM RICHARD BOTT, MODERATOR  
AND NORA SANDERS, GENERAL SECRETARY  
ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

Dear Regional Council Friends;

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..... (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

We hear this passage this year, in these times of pandemic isolation, differently than ever before. These days we are not tempted to neglect meeting together, but are *yearning* for the “normal” world when it is safe for all of us to meet together, to worship together, and to serve together once again. And yet we hear these words today with a new understanding of what it means to gather together, with a new understanding of the possibility of experiencing genuine community as we gather and worship through electronic means rather than sitting side by side in our pews.

We are writing to you in the middle of the summer, thinking ahead to your plans to gather for regional council meetings this fall. The usual spring meetings were put off this year with the expectation of meeting in person in the fall, but as the summer progresses, it seems increasingly clear that fall gatherings may be held virtually after all.

Your leadership in these unusual times is so important, and we are grateful to serve God alongside you in the United Church of Canada.

**COVID-19**

Sometimes in the past few months, it has felt almost impossible to think of anything except the pandemic and how it is affecting all of our lives and the life of our church! This has been a year of unexpectedly rapid and massive change. If you had told any of us as 2020 dawned that in less than three months all the churches would be closed, all the schools would be closed, all the restaurants would be closed, all but “essential” businesses would be closed, vacation trips would all be cancelled, and we would be expected to stay home and not visit with friends or family, we simply would not have believed you. Even in the early part of the year, when these things became realities in China, we felt compassion for the people there, but still could not imagine that we would ever be affected in a similar way.

This is something that none of us have ever experienced before, and it is not something we ever expected to experience. Anxiety and grief are natural and real, but we have also felt deeply inspired by the creativity, innovation and adaptability that our ministers and members have demonstrated. Online worship is vibrant and meaningful, and serving not only our members but also numbers of people who had not been attending church, but have somehow found their way in through our virtual doorways. Bible studies, youth groups, baking nights, book clubs, board meetings, refugee support committees, the National Indigenous Elders Council, and so many more groups and events are all happening through the use of electronic tools. Although clusters and networks were slow to get off the ground after the reorganization of the Church structures, now there are regular ZOOM gatherings of ministry and lay leaders in regional groups, where real conversations take place as they support one another through the changes of these times. The Moderator and General Secretary have both appreciated opportunities to be part of these regional gatherings, perhaps connecting in this way with more of you than it would have been possible to meet in person during the same time period.

The General Council Office closed on March 16, initially for “two weeks” but as of the time of writing it has not reopened. We are beginning to bring some staff back into the office this fall, but, especially with our open space layout and close proximity of neighbouring workspaces, it will be some considerable time before all staff are back. Planning for staff to return to the

office will take into account the ability of job functions to be performed from outside the office, the health and family situations of staff members. Those working in the office will find that it feels different in many respects with the appearance of masks, lack of access to the common lunch area, limited use of meeting formats, and so on. Fortunately, we have seen staff rise to the occasion and find creative ways of doing their jobs and connecting with the wider church from their own homes. As with other churches and organizations, this experience has given us the opportunity to examine travel practices and question the “necessity” of some of our former ways, and to consider the possibility of some staff doing all or some of their work from locations outside of the office on a continuing basis.

No doubt you are also looking for the learnings from this time, the things that you have found possible and that you do not want to lose in “returning to normal”. We do not know yet what the “new normal” will look like, but it seems most likely that it will be different from what we understood as normal in the past. As we explore these unfamiliar paths, we give thanks that we are doing it together as a church, and with the comfort of God’s ever loving presence.

### **Budget cuts**

When so many things “shut down” in mid March because of the pandemic, we were less than two weeks away from the spring meeting of the General Council Executive. This was to have been an in person gathering with a focus on identifying strategic priorities to offer to the church for discussion leading into the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council. There was one significant piece of business of the agenda, the approval of budget principles to guide the 2021 budget of the General Council Office. Given the circumstances in which this meeting was held (electronically), with so many immediate practical concerns in people’s minds, the “big picture strategic” work was deferred, and the focus shifted to the budget decisions that were needed. Although it would have been nice to avoid the difficult budget decisions too, this was not possible with church revenues are going down, as the size of our membership and number of congregations goes down. This has been a reality for some years and is accelerating. If anything was changed by the pandemic, it is the likelihood that even more serious reductions will be needed as a result of the economic fallout that accompanies the pandemic shutdown.

The budget principles that the General Council Executive approved on March 28 require the 2021 budget to be about \$4 million smaller than this year’s budget. These reductions will be roughly divided between grants and staff. Grant recipients have already been notified of the reduced grant levels that will apply in 2021, and this includes reductions in the Mission and Service allocations to Regional Councils. Staff reductions were made this spring and summer, so that severance costs could be borne within this fiscal year.

### **Anti-Racism**

The issues raised by racialized and Indigenous participants at the unplanned, passionate, and painful discussion that ended the General Council 43 meeting in Oshawa, and the ongoing presence of systemic racism within our church, have been a major concern and area of work for this Executive of the General Council.

Early on in its tenure, the GCE set up an Anti-Racism Working Group, and they have been working hard to lift up issues of racial injustice, and to seek practical measures that will make a difference. Their [report](#) to the General Council Executive in March of 2020 lifts up the work done and the directions identified for further work.

The White Privilege Working Group has gone through some transitions in membership this year, and the willingness of Shannon McCarthy (Regional Council Executive Minister for the Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit regional councils) to take on the role of chair provides an important basis for partnership in this work between the General Council and Regional Councils. These two Working Groups, along with the Reference Group for Indigenous Peoples and the Reference Group for Racialized Peoples, and the staff that

support them, will be meeting in September to discuss coordination and clarification of the work and to develop an outline for the United Church's Anti-Racism Strategy. We will be in conversation with Regional Councils as the anti-racism strategy is being developed.

Meanwhile, with advice from racialized staff, and oversight from both Working Groups, revisions have been made to the General Council Harassment policy to clarify its application to racial harassment, and the process that are available to activate it. The revised policy is slated for approval by the sub-executive this summer and will be in place by the time you meet this fall. Information and training will be available to help everyone become familiar with the scope and requirements of the revised policy.

We have been working closely with Anglicans and Lutherans, and with others from the Canadian Council of Churches, to express our shared commitment to the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, with links to statements in [March](#), [June](#) and [July](#). In June, the General Council Executive released a statement expressing clearly its conviction that [Black Lives Matter](#) to the United Church. The Moderator has also written to the Prime Minister to express strong support for the national recognition of August 1 as [Emancipation Day](#), to mark the abolition of slavery in Canada. If you want a practical step that you can take, we encourage you to write your own letter to the Prime Minister on this topic. Feel free to use the Moderator's letter as a model.

GC43 Commissioners will know that when the General Council was recalled in June to consider whether the next General Council meeting should be delayed, a [proposal](#) outlining a number of steps to combat racism was received. Although this proposal was received too close to the time of the meeting to allow for adequate discussion and preparation by commissioners, its principles received clear support and it was referred to the General Council Executive for further work with the expectation that there will be a report back to the next electronic recall of GC43 on October 24.

Those present in Oshawa, and those following closely the business of the General Council there heard clearly the importance of acknowledging and addressing racism. Even still, one challenge is that many United Church people assume that OTHER people are racists, and that racism is an individual and overt act as opposed to a system. We have denounced racism as a church. But some among us—particularly those of us who are White—may not really understand that although we oppose racism, we are part of racist systems and institutions, whether we realize it or not. The sad murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis has generated wider discussion and a deeper recognition of the systemic racism that is part the world in which we live. Many in the church have been educating themselves about White privilege, deepening their commitment to anti-racism work, affirming that Black Lives Matter, and following through with tangible actions that support our words. Too often, people believe that racism is a particular issue in the United States, or a problem outside the United Church. But racism actually relates to each of us, and is present in our own church. The good news is that understanding the reality of racism provides the basis for doing something about it, for speaking up when we hear inappropriate conversations, for sharing resources that have helped our own learning, and for pushing for social, institutional, and political changes that will bring about true respect, safety, and equality of opportunity for all.

We are in the process of recruiting an Anti-Racism and Equity Officer who will serve in the General Council Office and report directly to the General Secretary. This person will ensure that the various pieces of related work are coordinated, that information about the work is shared, and that learning opportunities are widely available.

Anti-racism work needs the leadership of the General Council Office, but also needs the commitment of United Church people in every Regional Council, and in local communities of

faith. If you are doing work in this area, or have suggestions for us, we would be grateful to hear from you.

### **National Indigenous Council**

The National Indigenous Council is now a year into its new structure. Through the first ten months of the life of this new body, they were ably supported by Cheryl Jourdain, former Speaker of the All Native Circle Conference, who had agreed to provide interim leadership through a transitional period. As of July 1, Murray Pruden has been serving as the Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice. The General Council Executive looks forward to working closely with the National Indigenous Council to advance the commitments made when the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council accepted the Calls to the Church from the Caretakers of the Indigenous Circle.

### **United Property Resource Corporation**

The establishment of the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) was approved by the General Council Executive in April of 2019 and got started in the months that followed. It is continuing to scale up quickly to achieve its mandate of becoming a trusted real estate advisor and support to faith communities by leading real estate initiatives on their behalf.

UPRC will work to ensure projects are commercially viable and support the mission of the community of faith and the United Church of Canada. This includes the development of safe, stable, and affordable housing for all Canadians while maximizing the social impact to achieve the highest possible economic, environmental and social benefits. UPRC has formally executed the agreement with Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) and is continuing to advance UCC real initiatives working alongside local faith communities.

The UPRC board is chaired by Don Hunter, who previously served on the General Council Executive as chair of the Permanent Committee on Finance. The first two staff of the corporation are Kris Tavella, who formerly did related work as part of EDGE, and the Chief Executive Officer Tim Blair, who began this spring in the midst of the COVID shutdown. Tim brings 20 years of real estate investment banking and private equity experience, and a strong commitment to the social values of the United Church, to the work.

This corporation has been created as a resource to the church, and either Tim or Kris are happy to hear from congregations and regional councils who have questions about property issues. You can expect to hear more announcements about the United Property Resource Group this fall. ([tblair@united-church.ca](mailto:tblair@united-church.ca) or [Ktavella@united-church.ca](mailto:Ktavella@united-church.ca))

### **Recruitment of new General Secretary**

At last October's recall meeting of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council, the General Secretary shared the news of her wish to retire in the fall of 2020. A Search Committee was appointed (chaired by the Moderator) and, after a bit of delay because of COVID-19 distractions, they concluded interviews in August, and came to a strong consensus in their recommendation, which was approved by the General Council Executive on August 27.

[Michael Blair](#) will begin his term as General Secretary of the General Council on November 1. Many of you will already know him..... and we are excited about the excellent experience and faithful vision that he will bring to this new role. Nora Sanders will continue to serve until the end of October.

### **GC 44 Delayed until 2022**

At a special electronic meeting held on June 20, 2020, Commissioners of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council made this decision to delay the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council from 2021 to 2022. Given the uncertainty caused by the Global pandemic, this decision was made having in mind the health

and well being of all participants, including Commissioners, global partners, staff, and guests.

The revised dates for GC44 have been set for July 22–26, 2022. These dates were selected based on the original 2021 dates, availability of the venues, and the UCW 60th Anniversary celebration which is scheduled to be held in Sydney Nova Scotia, July 11 – 15, 2022.

Deadlines for GC44 are June 14, 2021 for electing Commissioners and October 29, 2021 for submitting proposals.

Richard Bott, Moderator  
Nora Sanders, General Secretary  
On behalf of the General Council Executive

## **A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT**

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

### **We promise to relate to one another with**

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

### **We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by**

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

### **In our Christian love for one another we will**

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

## **HOLY MANNERS**

The Very Reverend Marion Parry introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honour the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.

## **MEETING PROCEDURES**

*(Numbering in this section is from the 2019 Manual Appendix pg. 188-191  
and only includes sections relevant to this meeting)*

### **3.1 The Chair**

The chair keeps a meeting of the council on track and may make rulings on procedure and the conduct of the meeting.

All members must be able to participate fully and comfortably.

Every voting member makes decisions on the basis of their own understanding of scripture and of the ethos of the United Church, in the light of Christian experience, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the meeting of the council.

Any member of the council may bring to the attention of the chair any concerns about how a motion is being dealt with.

When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the council decides otherwise by a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The chair does not participate in the discussion or vote except in the case of a tie. If the chair wants to express an opinion, then they move aside from the role and ask another member to chair until the matter is disposed of.

## **3.2 How to Conduct a Meeting**

### **3.2.1 Process**

A council may set its own process for conducting business. If the council has not set its own process, it follows the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules).

### **3.2.2 Motions**

A council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of a higher council.

A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.

### **3.2.3 Challenging Rulings**

A voting member may challenge a ruling of the chair at the time the ruling is made. The chair restates the ruling and may give reasons. The secretary then calls the vote without any discussion on whether the chair's ruling is sustained.

## **3.3 How to Amend a Motion**

When a motion has been made and is open for discussion, any motion to amend must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.

When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the council may deal with the final form of the original motion.

Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.

A motion to amend fails if there is no seconder.

A motion to amend may not change the intention of the original motion.

A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

## **3.5 Motions That Interrupt the Meeting**

At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to

- a) close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- b) fix the time to adjourn;
- c) adjourn;
- d) take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- e) limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- f) postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- g) refer the motion to another body or commission;
- h) amend/change the motion; or
- i) postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specified time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

### 3.6 How to Reconsider a Motion

A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

Only a voting member who voted "yes" for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.

A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.

The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed. A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

### 3.7 Additional Procedures

In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules) will be followed.

#### **OTHER:**

Divide a Motion (seriatim) This is a request to vote on a motion in parts rather than in total. A seconder is required. If two persons ask, the chairperson must grant the request.

Point of Information Any person can go to a microphone, interrupt debate and ask for information. For example, "What page is this on?" or "Who is speaking?".

Point of Order Any person can interrupt to challenge or question procedures. For example, "We didn't vote", or "President, we are debating this motion to table and we shouldn't be."

Point of Privilege Any person can interrupt debate to raise point of privilege. For example, "Our table group doesn't have copies of this motion" or "Could you please repeat the motion, I didn't hear it."

## **BASIC RULES for DEBATE on PROPOSALS**

1. Prior to the Regional Council Meeting, proposals are received for information and consultation by the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. The Committee may make editorial suggestions to the proposing body to promote accurate understanding of the proposal by the people at the Regional Council Meeting. The Committee will communicate these suggestions to the proposing body and the proposing body may, or may not, take the suggestions.

Proposals that are received and edited prior to the docket deadline will be included in the Record of Proceedings. Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the docket deadline will be provided in written form at the Regional Council Meeting.

The proposals will be available in a variety of ways: typed hard copy, via screen sharing, and read aloud at the time of decision-making.

Due to limitations of electronic online meetings any proposals received during the meeting or prior to the listening session one week prior to the meeting will be automatically referred to the Regional Council Executive.

2. All proposals will be presented in the following manner:
  - i. The Convenor will indicate which proposal is being dealt with.
  - ii. A representative from the proposing body will be given 3 minutes to present the 'issue' described in the proposal and their proposed action to address the issue (Listening).
  - iii. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.
  - iv. All proposals will be 'Listened to' before discussion happens.
  - v. If technology allows group discussion time will be given (Discussion).
  - vi. After Discussion, written responses will be submitted and received up until the Monday immediately prior to the constituted meeting of the Regional Council and a motion will be brought forth in the decision making time based on the feedback and according to the following:

*If the Regional Council is the Council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.*

*If the General Council is the court of action:*

- a. The Regional Council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
- b. *If it agrees*, it passes the proposal to the General Council.
- c. *If it does not agree*, it decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.
- d. The Regional Council may include its own recommendations when passing the proposal on to the General Council.

*If the Regional Council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to General Council only if there is a compelling reason. (2019 Manual, section F.1.3.1 (Regional Council a-d), p.102)*

## ANNUAL MEETING OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL ENABLING MOTIONS

1. **Roll of Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council for the purposes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regional Council meeting be:
  - i. the members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
  - ii. Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council
  - iii. lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by communities of faith. (Manual 2019, C.1.1 & C.1.2)
  - iv. members-at-large, lay members within the Regional Council who have been appointed members as necessary for the work of the Regional Council by the Regional Council Executive and who have not been elected by their community of faith.
2. **Corresponding Members:** that all invited guests, registered visitors, and staff be corresponding members of this regional council meeting, with voice but not vote.
3. **The Bounds of the Council:** that the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.
4. **Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:** that the regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose. (Manual 2019; C.4.3)
5. **Limits to Debate:** that without the permission of the Council, no member shall speak more than once on any proposal or amendment; and that speeches be limited to two minutes per person on each proposal, except at the discretion of the President.
6. **Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this Regional Council meeting be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian.
7. **Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2019 (pages 187-191); and that any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.
8. **Unfinished Business:** that unfinished business be referred to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive.
9. **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Living Skies Regional Council be approved as distributed.
10. **Celebration of Ministry:** That Living Skies Regional Council, having received confirmation of the readiness of the following candidates and admissionands from the Office of Vocation and confirmed through the Living Skies Pastoral Relations Commission that a covenantal relationship is in place with a community of faith or offer of employment to a paid accountable/recognized ministry, held Celebration of Ministries services on September 25<sup>th</sup> in Tisdale, SK to admit Hoemun Lee, September 26<sup>th</sup> in Grenfell, SK to admit Hyun Heo, and September 27<sup>th</sup> in Regina, SK to ordain Deb Anderson-Pratt and Bruce Kakakaway (The Manual H.4.8).
11. **Reports:** that the verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.