

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

**2024 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

**June 13 – 15 at the Travelodge Hotel**

**June 16 – Service of Praise and Celebration – Knox United Church**

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>CATEGORY</u></b>
	Agenda
A	General Information
B	Report of the Regional Council Executive
C	Reports of Commissions and Committees
D	Reports of Networks and Task Groups
E	Outreach Ministries
F	Educational Partners
G	Friends of Living Skies Regional Council
H	Remits / Proposals
I	Biographies
J	Nominations

**DURING THE REGIONAL GATHERING**

**EMERGENCY NUMBER: 306-716-2955**

**CHAPLAINS:**

**Thursday** - Shelly Manley-Tannis 306-491-7083

**Friday** - Russell Mitchell-Walker 306-535-3720

**Saturday** - Dexter van Dyke 306-450-7651

## **POLICIES – REGIONAL MEETINGS**

### **Refund of Meal Fees**

Those delegates to the Regional Meetings of Living Skies Regional Council who have registered prior to the deadline and paid the meal fee will be eligible for a refund of their meal fee, following the Regional Meeting, as a result of non-attendance at the meeting, provided that:

- They have advised the Regional Council Office by the catering deadline of their anticipated non-attendance and have requested a refund of their meal fee,
- Their reason for not attending relates to circumstances necessitating their presence elsewhere which could not reasonably have been anticipated prior to registering for the meeting (such as recent illness, medical procedures, disability or bereavement; ministry persons taking part in funeral services; becoming aware of family members or close friends who have been affected by sickness or accident; being advised of events requiring their attendance within a week or two of the meeting, etc.)
- Numbers of participants on which catering charges are based will not be adversely affected in a significant way by the refund of meal fees, and that
- The meal fee has not reassigned to an alternate delegate.

After considering the above, and due consultation, the Registrar may recommend the refund of the meal fee on compassionate grounds.

### **Late Fees**

In the information made available to appointed delegates, ministry personnel and registered visitors, the deadline date for registering for the Regional Meeting is indicated, along with the amount of the late fee in the case of registrations received after that date.

It is proposed that the late fee as outlined above be applied unless:

- Persons registering late have been named as alternates
- Late registrants can provide a reason or reasons for not registering prior to the deadline that is satisfactory to the Registrar
- It can be established that Youth delegates were not in a position to register prior to the deadline due to circumstances beyond their control.

Regional Council version approved by  
Living Skies Regional Council  
Executive – February 2023

**WHO'S WHO AT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL	Darrell Reine
REGIONAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE CONVENOR:	Miles Russell
EXECUTIVE MINISTER:	Shannon McCarthy
MINUTE SECRETARY:	Chantal Winslow
FLOOR MANAGERS:	Bryan Tudor and Mark Pitman
MUSIC LEADERSHIP:	Mark Ziekle
WORSHIP LEADERS	Aurora Espenant and SunDo Hyun
PROJECTIONIST/TECHNICIAN:	Don Kindopp
HEAD SCRUNTEER	Daryl Woods
DISPLAY SPACE:	Bryan Tudor
BOOK DISPLAY:	Turning the Tide Bookstore / Linda Gunningham
PROPOSALS TASK GROUP:	Shannon McCarthy, Darrell Reine, George Thurlow, Daryl Woods, Miles Russell and Chantal Winslow
CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY DINNER EMCEE:	Brad Wudrich
SERVICE OF PRAISE & CELEBRATION ORGAINZER REFLECTION SPEAKER:	Darrell Reine Rt Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown
COMMON-TATER EDITORS	Roy Bortolotto and Bev Diebert (staff)

**People with whom we are Celebrating  
at the 2024 Annual Event of Saskatchewan Conference**

<b><u>ORDINANDS</u></b>		
Sheila Deforest	Deborah Ferber	Ryan Sawchuk
Roy Bortolotto	Lynette Callfas	Cam Fraser
Peter Gilmer	Doreen Hewitson	Gary Johnson
Lorna King	Jo Mader	Bonnie Morton
Darrell Reine	John Sellwood	Gayle Wensley
<b><u>ADMITTAND</u></b>		<b><u>COMMISSIONAND</u></b>
David Mugadzi		Dave Whalley

**Those Retiring**

Jim Balfour	Mohandas Barnabas	Tim Ellis
Connie Sykes	Bill Unger	Jim Wolff

**Those Celebrating Anniversaries**

<p><b><u>50 YEARS</u></b> Thomas Powell      George Ward</p> <p><b><u>45 YEARS</u></b> Dexter van Dyke    Mark Wartman</p> <p><b><u>40 YEARS</u></b> Carolyn Conarroe    Carolyn McBean Nancy Steinbachs</p> <p><b><u>35 YEARS</u></b> Hazel Arbon            Nobuko Iwai Flor Linantud          Mary Young</p>	<p><b><u>30 YEARS</u></b> Debra Berg            Lorna King Marilyn Leuty        Noreen Powell Louise Robson        Ken Schrag Erin Shoemaker</p> <p><b><u>25 YEARS</u></b> Catherine Coates    Jennifer Janzen-Ball Molly Kitchen        Katherine Kyle Deborah Smith        Michael Webster Barbara Wilkins      Darren Wooff</p>
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**Those for whom we mourn:**

Bernice Saulteaux Celia Ricker Marilyn Petrie Mildred Harper Howard Hanson	June Newsham George Holliday Betty Anne Williamson Elsie Livingston Evelyn Gay	Victor Greenlaw Reg Mooney Gladys Pavo Penny
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## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

### **AURORA ESPENANT**

Aurora Espenant is an ordained minister serving St. Andrew's United Church in Outlook. She was ordained in 2022 after receiving a BTh and MDiv from St. Andrew's College. She is looking forward to the decades of ministry ahead of her!

### **SUNDO HYUN**

SunDo Hyun became a United Church minister in 2016 (admitted from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea). He currently serves the Grace United Church in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.

## **MUSIC LEADERSHIP**

### **MARK ZIELKE**

Mark Zielke is the worship minister at St. Paul's United in Saskatoon. Together with an incredible team of visionary leaders, he focuses on bringing relevant and powerful worship experiences to St. Paul's United, both in-person and online.

Under Mark's leadership, St. Paul's has welcomed many new worship and technology volunteers, especially those who are youth and young adults. Mark has also led St. Paul's in learning new music, so that now the majority of St. Paul's music is from the 21<sup>st</sup> century, all while building enthusiasm and engagement from worshippers.

Mark grew up in evangelical churches, and brings this background to the United Church's values of deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice."

## **CHAIR OF LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DARRELL REINE**

Darrell was born and raised in Regina. After 23 years of working in administration with Ipsco (Averaz) Darrell embarked on his journey of Designated Lay Ministry. He served Long Lake for five years and then moved to Westminster, Regina and will be completing his fourteenth year there in June. Darrell and his partner Karen have three children and six grandchildren. Grace, Darrell's faithful companion is part of the ministry team at Westminster. In his spare time, Darrell enjoys gardening, cooking, wine, having Grace take him for walks and of course more work for the church.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Moderator, Rt Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne



The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne is the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada (UCC). She is the elected national spiritual leader and public representative of the United Church until 2025. As Moderator, Carmen chairs the governance bodies of the UCC. She also sits on the board of the Vancouver Foundation—one of the largest community foundations in Canada. She has previously held a number of important governance roles with the UCC, including supporting indigenous candidates for ministry.

Prior to serving the national church, Moderator Carmen was the executive director of First United Church Community Ministry Society in Vancouver; She joined First United in February 2017, led an organizational turnaround resulting in increased stability and capacity, and facilitated the redevelopment of their main site. Following her term as Moderator, she will take up a teaching position as Assistant Professor of UCC Studies at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto; she starts teaching in January, 2026.

The Moderator leads with compassion, thoughtfulness, and creativity while maintaining academic interests, church ministry, indigenous ways of being, parenting, and partnering. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, and is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation. She is passionate about creating a life with great stories and amazing adventures with her family

## **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 2024 Manual Appendix pg. 190-193  
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."

**Business Process at Living Skies Regional Council – June 13-16, 2024**

The living Skies Regional Council has agreed to use the General Council model of Business Process at it's Reginal Council Meetings.

- **Pre-Living Skies RC conversations:** Topics of conversation of interest to the regional council will be solicited from the regional council to go to the Living Skies Regional Meeting. These conversations may help to inform proposals to the Regional Council or identify conversations the church wishes to hold.
- **New proposal format:** The template for proposals is designed to encourage naming an issue without specifying the outcome. "Conversation proposals" requesting a conversation on a particular issue are also encouraged.
- **Priority agenda set by Living Skies Meeting Planning Team:** Proposals will be reviewed and grouped by theme/issue. Proposals will be prioritized with the time available or referred to Living Skies Regional Council Executive.

<b>Three-Phase Process</b>		
<b>Listening</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Learn	Thoughts	Debate
Clarify	Insights	Final refinements
Understand	Refinements	Toward consensus
	Affirmations	Vote

- **Three-phase decision-making:** Regional Council Representatives will engage in a three-phase process for all Living Skies Regional Council business:
  1. **Listening:** presentation of the proposal, questions and answers to clarify issues and implications.
  2. **Discussion:** exchange of ideas, thoughts, arguments and pros and cons; suggestions for refining proposal, affirmations, naming principles/parameters. Groups might also prioritize items as "we'd like to decide this together" and/or "We could live with the Living Skies RC Executive making these decisions if we run out of time."
  3. **Decision:** final debate and refinement of proposal in plenary; working toward consensus, voting

While a consent motion will be used for some items, the majority of business the Living Skies Regional Council discusses—the priority identified themes/issues—will follow the three-phase decision-making process:

- 1. Listening phase:** Information sessions inform Living Skies RC representatives about the issues on the agenda. Information sessions may be held in plenary or in table groups.
- 2. Discussion phase:** Representatives meet in table groups with a pre-named Facilitator and a note-taker.

Discussion groups share what they have heard through the Listening phase so everyone is informed about all the issues. Discussion groups deliberate on the proposals. Note-takers record comments, affirmations, and suggestions, and the groups confirm the information to be recorded and shared. The reports from all discussion groups are available for viewing by all representatives as well as by the facilitation group.

- 3. Decision-making phase:** The Facilitation group’s refined proposals are made available to Living Skies RC members.

There is final debate and refinement of the proposal in plenary, with the facilitation group returning to do more refinement as necessary. The process concludes with a motion in response to the proposal and a vote on the motion.



## 2024 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 Inaugural 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 2024, C.1.1 & C.1.2)
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 Meeting:** that for voting purposes the bounds of the council Meeting shall be the numbered tables on the floor, when in session and that the Living Skies Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including ordination, commission and admission to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada on June 16, 2024 at 10:00am at Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon to fulfill its responsibility to ordain, commission and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.
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 2024; 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 Chair.
6. **Election Procedures for Vacancies in Regional Council Appointed Positions:** that the Nominating Committee present a slate of names for all vacancies at a time prior to the meeting; and that all other nominations will be given to the chair of Nominations for consideration and presented to the Executive for approval.
7. **Scrutineers:** that the responsibilities of Scrutineers are to distribute, collect and count ballots, reporting the result to the Convenor or Executive Minister; and to count show-of-hand votes when requested by the Convenor or the Council.
8. **Agenda Committee:** that the Agenda Committee for this meeting of the Regional Council be the members of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee, plus one person designated as Parliamentarian, George Thurlow.
9. **Materials to be Distributed:** that aside from documentation relevant to this meeting, no other material shall be distributed to Regional Council Attendees or placed on tables or put on PowerPoint, within the bounds of the Regional Council Meeting without permission of one of the Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee and Convenor or a designate, or the Executive Minister.
10. **Rules of Debate and Order:** that the rules of debate and order for Parliamentary debate be those spelled out in Appendix of The Manual 2024 (pages 189-193); and that any point not covered in such Appendix, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.

11. **Reports:** that the verbal and written reports be accepted as presented.
12. **Minutes:** that the minutes of the 4th Regional Gathering of the Living Skies Regional council be approved as distributed in the online docket.
13. **Proposals:** that proposals that are received and edited prior to the Docket deadline will be included in the Docket. Proposals that have not been received and edited prior to the Docket deadline will be referred to the Executive for decision making.
14. **Budget Implications:** All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (defined as \$2000 or over) shall be considered “in principle only” and, if adopted, be referred to the Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.