

## MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE – 2023 - 2024

Chairperson	Darrell Reine
Treasurer	VACANT
Member	Ron Brandow
Member	Linda Gunningham
Member	Kathleen James-Cavan
Member	Deborah Springer
Member	Piotr Strzelecki
Member	Dave Whalley
Member	VACANT
Convenor of RM	VACANT
Executive Minister	Shannon McCarthy
Program Assistant	Chantal Winslow

## LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT

As we approach the annual meeting, I am looking back at the work the executive did throughout the year on your behalf. Please find the following points:

- Renewed the LLWL license for Chantal Ntibategera, Patti Sawchuk & Eleanor Bowie.
- Approved the dissolution of the Gainsborough-Carievale Pastoral Charge effective June 30, 2023, into two separate pastoral charges.
- Approved the name of Board of Directors for Camp Shagabec.
- Received and affirmed to the recommendations of the Review for Bethany-Newton United Church, B.C.
- Approved the appointment of Miles Russell as the Convenor of the Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee for this year.
- Approved the funding request of \$2500.00 for the Office Admin Conference
- Approved the fund request of \$4000 for the Western Intercultural Ministry Network Conference
- Agreed to turn down the request for extra funding for RAPM, ICM, SSHC, & NSHC and continue to work with these ministries in finding sustainable sources of funding.
- Approved \$5000 to the Ochapowac FN culture camp.
- Approved a statement in response to the Education Minister new education policy.
- Appointed Sheila Lavender as a member at large of the regional council for purpose of serving as a pastoral charge supervisor.
- Agreed in conjunction with St. Andrews College, to approve the negotiation for the sale of surface rights of the Moats Land.
- Approved the LLWL policy
- Approved the 2024 budget
- Approved the mileage reimbursement be 0.55 for committees and task groups for 2024
- Approved the accommodation rate to \$135.00 per night.
- Approved the meal rates in the travel policy.
- Agreed to sign a statement presented by Brenda Curtis regarding the conflict in Gaza.
- Approved the re-licensing of Mary Anne Grand, Phyllis Verbeek, Sandra Watson, and Dianne Young

- Approved a license be granted to Anne Mathewson as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader
- Approved the Honorarium Policy as presented.
- Approved the Terms for the Affirming Committee as presented.
- Approved the allocation of M&S grants totalling \$125,000.
- Approved the changing of the name “Justice Committee” to “Justice Team”
- Approval was given for the corporation (Lumsden Beach Camp) to have some indebtedness for the building of the dining hall. Exact amount to be determined at a later date when mortgage information is provided.
- Approved the Board of Directors for ICM.
- approve a loan of \$250,000 to Lumsden Beach Camp, with an interest rate of 4% and a maximum amortization of 5 years. For the first year, interest only payments will be paid, however, any money received through trust or sales of property shall go directly towards the principal of the loan
- Approved the Camp Tapawingo Tamarack Presbytery United Church of Canada Inc, Camp Woodboia, & Lumsden Beach Camp Board of Directors.
- approved a change in name from Hudson Bay Larger Parish to Hudson Bay: St. Stephen Pastoral Charge.
- Approved the Bequest Policy as presented.
- Approved the Ordination Policy as presented.
- Approved the following covenant and reminder being sent to Lumsden Beach:  
Covenant: Until substantial repayment of this loan has been made, no further debt of any kind or any new capital projects are to occur without prior approval of Living Skies Regional Council. Reminder: As per United Church guidelines, any capital projects or debts are not to occur without prior communication with the Living Skies Regional Council.
- agreed by consensus (via email on December 12, 2023) \* That Living Skies Regional Council Executive establish a Commission to take over the functioning of Knox Metropolitan United Church (C.3.3.1), effective immediately until some work is done and a new board can be established. That Darrell Reine, Shannon McCarthy, and Tracy Murton be authorized to appoint members and select a chair. That the Commission report back to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive periodically regarding the state of the community of faith.
- Approved the Camp Shagabec Board of Directors
- Appointed Kathleen James-Cavan, Bev Bradshaw and Mathias Ross to the Wesley/renter appeal hearing committee.
- Approved the audited financial statements.
- Approved the LSRC Regional Affirming Action Plan and pass along to the Regional Council for approval.

It has been a busy year, and we continue to work our way through this new structure and find areas which need support and areas on which we can improve. I am grateful for the work all the staff does and continues to do on our behalf.

Blessings, Darrell

Darrell Reine

Convenor of the Regional Council Executive and the Annual Gathering

## LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

We are now five years into the restructuring and a couple of years from the lockdowns of COVID. It feels like Living Skies is finding its footing. As we celebrate becoming an Affirming ministry at this Regional Council gathering, and new and ongoing ministries with a historic Ordination, Commissioning and Admission service, there is a lot to be positive about in our future.

### Restructuring evaluation

There will be opportunity to evaluate the new structure and how it is meeting the needs of the church over the next two years; we know that this change has not been perfect and that it has felt like the decision-making structures are farther away than ever. Our hope is that we will continue to find ways to communicate what is happening at the regional council, to continue building relationships with communities of faith, and to do the hard work of justice in a province where it can feel our voice is being silenced.

### Thank you to the Executive

I want to give a huge thanks to the Living Skies Executive for all their work and prayerful consideration of the work of the Regional Council. They make hard decisions with care and compassion, trying to always keep the best interests of the communities of faith and the regional council at the forefront. I especially want to thank Darrell Reine who has gone above and beyond as Chair; since we haven't had a Regional Council Convenor he has taken on both roles.

### Thank you to many, many volunteers and elected leadership

It is important to remember that the majority of the work of the regional council is done by volunteers. Filling all of the opportunities on our lengthy list of commissions, committees, task groups, and boards would take close to one hundred people. We continue to need people who are able to step up and offer their gifts and talents on a variety of committees and commissions. I want to thank those that do offer their time, and challenge those who feel disconnected to offer their time for one of the various committees, commissions, or networks and clusters that can help us be more connected and build community. WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

### Regional Council and deployed staff

I want to thank the staff of the Regional Council for all they do, their commitment to the church and the personal sacrifices they make to do this work. Although our staff list looks long, it is important to remember that we only have two full time staff: Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister and Bev Diebert, Office Administrator. The rest of the staff team are part time: Lindsay Mohn, Youth and Young Adult Minister and Megan Drabble both work  $\frac{1}{4}$  time each for LSRC.

The rest of the staff work for three Regional Councils:

Finance officer Heather Dootoff is moving to  $\frac{1}{2}$  time serving three regional councils, so is only  $\frac{1}{6}$  time in Living Skies.

Julie Graham, Justice and Communications Minister;  
Chantal Winslow, Executive Assistant.

As Executive Minister, I work for three Regional Councils as well as sharing some of my time with General Council responsibilities.

Staff cannot be part of all the pieces of work of the Regional Council; there is a limit to our finances and to our capacity to do all the work. Despite that your staff do an incredible job. When you do the math on all these positions it is really only 3.5 full time equivalent (FTE),

which is a significant cut to when Living Skies was Saskatchewan Conference and we had 6 FTE.

We are also grateful for the three staff people deployed from General Council to Living Skies: Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell (1/3 time with Living Skies); Laura Fohse, Office of Vocation Minister across the three Regions; and Vicki Nelson, Stewardship Animator for BC right over to NW Ontario, so 1/5 time with our Region.

The work to find space to hold our Archives continues. I want to thank Leanne Templeton and Erin Acland the Archivists from Northern Spirit and Prairie to Pine respectively for their continued willingness to help deal with archives requests, and consult regarding our space needs.

We need to find new ways to do the work that we are called to do through clusters, networks, community partnerships, and working ecumenically. Thank you to the many communities of faith, ecumenical shared ministries, community ministries, chaplaincies and camps, and our many community and ecumenical or interfaith partners who continue to show us all how to offer ministry in new ways.

As we begin the United Church's 99<sup>th</sup> year looking towards our centennial in June 2025, it is an important time to reflect on who we have been, our celebrations and the milestones of what we have been as a denomination as well as the recognizing our mistakes. We also need to work together to discern what we are called to be for the next 100 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon McCarthy (she/her),  
Executive Minister.

## **General Council Executive & the General Council Offices**

### **Accountability Report to Regional Councils**

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Greetings as you convene for your annual meeting. We pray that it will be a meaningful time of gathering and work as you visualize what it means to be evolving communities characterized by deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. We recognize the challenges to our collective ministries as we imagine the sustainability of the ministries of The United Church of Canada and acknowledge the necessity as leaders to be harbingers of hope. We join you in the journey.

The Executive and staff leaders in the church have committed to find ways to enable the ministries of the Communities of Faith. This report highlights four initiatives that will significantly impact our communities.

#### **UCC Protect United**

This initiative is by far the largest financial commitment of the strategic plan, with a \$3 million loan funding a captive insurance program aimed at helping participating United Church ministries first reduce and then contain insurance costs. In addition to providing the start-up capital, the national church is also exposed to providing more capital in the event of particularly adverse claims results - especially if they happen in the early years.

The program was rushed into place for December 2022 to provide immediate premium relief, with a rollback of premium increases from 2020 and 2021. This meant premium reductions of 11-27% during a year when insurance premiums in the industry were going up by 15-30%. Even with a premium rate increase in December 2023, on an apples-to-apples basis, participants paid less for insurance than two years prior.

So far – repeat: so far – the program has been a success financially. Annualized premiums paid for 2021-2022 were \$10.1 million versus \$8.1 million for the first year of the program – a saving of almost \$2 million when adjusted for new business and closures/amalgamations. The interest on the start-up loan is being paid annually. Claims experience has been well within target levels, and with each additional year of reasonable claims experience, the captive insurance arrangement becomes more self-sufficient and the start-up loan potentially repayable.

Despite the very encouraging **initial** financial results, the customer service and administration has been very poor and caused much frustration for participants. Much of this was attributable to rushing the launch of the program to deliver the financial benefit, but our partner's existing systems and staff proved inadequate for the volume of queries that arose. Church-side decisions to deliver more savings also proved challenging administratively. There has been much remedial activity underway, and we expect to achieve proper service capacity by the second quarter of 2024. We will launch greater coverage flexibility and improved communications at the same time.

Everyone is reminded that this initiative will need to run just like a traditional insurance company, with claims administered accordingly. The difference is that we are all in it together to try to reduce risk and claims – and therefore premiums. This captive insurance arrangement exists solely to benefit participants.

### **Strategic Operational Plan Initiative - Growth**

All the Growth Animators are now in place, working actively with regions on their strategies for renewing and creating communities and inviting strong participation in The United Church of Canada. In January and February alone, Growth Animators met with:

- 71 Ministry Personnel
- 37 Governing Bodies (by phone, online or in person)
- 16 Communities of Faiths, and facilitated
- 31 conversations about Growth to some form of regional body.

The focus of these meetings has been visioning; collaboration with other Communities of Faith; exploration of neighbourhood profiles; creation of renewal or growth strategies, and exploring practices of discipleship and invitation. Staff continue to explore and develop possibilities in 40 possible sites for new Communities of Faith amongst migrant, diasporic and Francophone communities; close to 10 of these are sufficiently developed to have leadership contracts to support their continued progress.

### **Cooperative Ministry Models**

There are many different models of cooperative ministries that already exist in the United Church. Work is underway to develop and offer training programs for lay leaders and ministry personnel in cooperative ministries, and those who might be interested, including candidates for ministry.

### Faithful Footprints

To date, we have invested almost \$3M in this initiative to assist Communities of Faith in upgrading and renovating their heating/cooling systems and addressing issues of environmental sustainability and cost savings.

### Other Updates:

**Addressing Structural Opportunities:** These initiatives are a critical part of the ministry of the leadership team consisting of the Executive and staff leaders. We invite your continued engagement in these areas of work. There are several other initiatives to address some structural opportunities, and responses to emerging issues. We have established working groups to provide additional critical information as we address the challenges of sustainability. We established a Total Compensation Task Group to look at the issues relating to the church's compensation challenges. In keeping with the commitment to evaluating the 2019 structural changes in the church, a Steering Committee has been established to work alongside Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, the staff lead for the project. Both groups will be reporting to the 45th General Council in 2025.

In keeping with *The Manual* requirement (D.4.1.6), the Executive has established a working group to review the role of the Moderator. Additionally, the Executive agreed to also include the role of the General Secretary in this review.

**The Ministry of Justice:** As we continue to live into the commitment to becoming an antiracist denomination, we have introduced a new initiative, *Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Oppression Education for Committees*.

To date, most committees have completed, or will soon be completing, their education sessions. From the feedback so far, we hope to offer similar programs more broadly to other leadership groups in the church. Together with the Indigenous Church, an *Indigenous and racialized youth gathering* is now into its second year. This now-annual gathering is firmly lodged as an emerging youth-oriented community of faith. It focuses on building understanding through mutual learning on experiences of racism and creative responses to antiracism in the United Church.

Finding ways to invite a deeper and a broader engagement in advocacy continues to be a challenge, especially when the church is not of one mind and often is unable to speak together in respectful ways across our differences. There have been two new hires in the General Council Office, a *Government Relations Officer* to help to build our capacity to engage with government as we deepen our advocacy efforts, and a *Program Coordinator, Global Advocacy 2SLGBTQ1A+*. In addition, we have developed a new advocacy tool to enable sign-on as part of any advocacy campaign. The Justice Principles adopted by the 2023 annual meeting of the 44th General Council has provided a framework for our advocacy particularly with the war in Gaza.

Together with the Indigenous Church, the work on justice and reconciliation continues as we attempt to address both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People. Communities of Faith are invited to witness for justice in this area; this includes the Moose Hide Campaign and our own *#SearchTheLandfill* social media campaign regarding the Brady and Prairie Green landfills in Winnipeg.

The Executive invited the *Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee* (TICIF) in collaboration with the *Indigenous Church* and the *Anti-Racism Common Table* to examine the use of the word "mission," given the colonial history of the word and to bring recommendations;

these were adopted in November 2023. (The proposal [GS 63 Recommendations re: Mission](#) is found on the [United Church Commons](#).) Following the request of the 44th General Council, a working group was established to engage the church in learning about and countering antisemitism, particularly within our interpretations of Scripture, in worship, and in Christian education. More information and resources can be found on the [Countering Antisemitism page](#) on the United Church website.

**Centennial Celebration:** Planning for the United Church centennial is underway. There will be three streams:

1. Commemoration
2. External-focused communication and action plan
3. Fundraising/capital campaign.

June 9, 2024, will be the launch of the centennial year (online and in person) with a worship service at Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, a site close to the inaugural gathering at the former Mutual Street Arena. Every month, from June 2024 to June 2025, a key moment will be highlighted on social media to mark and share our history. The date for the Centennial service itself has been set for June 8, 2025. This will be the celebration to which we invite international guests.

The goal of an external-focused campaign is twofold: to introduce the distinctiveness of the United Church to those who have only a broad umbrella definition of “church,” and to reconnect with those who claim United Church identity but have lost connection. The Executive asked The United Church of Canada Foundation to lead a legacy campaign.

**Mission and Service:** Good news! We are grateful for your continuing support of the collective ministries of the Church. There is good news to report regarding the 2023 Mission and Service results: contributions by congregations, United Church Women (UCW), and special donations all exceeded budget. The totals for these three areas, sitting at \$17,090,056, were slightly over the 2022 actuals of \$17,062,694.

The total for Mission and Service from all areas was \$20,831,564. This compares favourably to the total budget of \$20,225,000, and is close to the 2022 actual amount raised of \$21,132,213. These are preliminary results, and you can expect a final tally and the Mission and Service Accountability Report in June.

Information and updates about the work of the Executive can be found on the [General Council 44 webpage](#).

**Minutes of Living Skies Regional Council Meeting  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
May 25 - 28, 2024**

THURSDAY

**WELCOME**

Darrell Reine opened the meeting at 2:02 pm and thanked the local arrangements team. He also explained the meeting banner. We were asked to place a pin on the banner to represent our community. The banner is now hung at the front of the meeting stage.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY TERRITORY**

Darrell Reine shared our Land Acknowledgement.

Deb Anderson Pratt shared a Cree prayer.

**INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES AND GUESTS**

We heard greetings from **Elder Bunny Ermine**. He offered a prayer and sang a traditional song.

**Inspector Scott Hayes – PA Police Service** welcomed us to Prince Albert. Thanked Calvary United Church for their support in the community.

Nora read a greeting from **Elder Sherry McClennan** and Darrell read a greeting from Prince Albert **Mayor Greg Dion**.

**OPENING WORSHIP**

**INTRODUCTION TO VOTING PROCESS**

Shannon explained the voting process.

**PROCEDURAL/ ENABLING MOTIONS 001-2023/2024**

**It was agreed by consensus**

**That Living Skies Regional Council accept the following Enabling Motions #1-13 for this Regional Council meeting:**

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 2019, 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 May 28, 2023 at 10:00am at Calvary United Church, 114 – 25<sup>th</sup> St. E., Prince Albert 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 2023; 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 2023 (pages 191-195); 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 3rd Regional Gathering of the Living Skies Regional council be approved as distributed in the online docket.
13. **Proposals:** that all unfinished business be referred to the Living Skies Regional Council Executive.

Moved by Shannon McCarthy

Seconded by Carolyn Woodall

**CARRIED**

**AGENDA REVIEW**

We reviewed the agenda and reviewed the proposal process.

**TABLE GROUP TIME**

Table groups were asked to Introduce themselves and where you come from. Lamented and learned

**NOMINATIONS**

The nominations committee shared available opportunities. They asked those who may be interested in serving in any of the available positions to approach their committee throughout the weekend.

**REPORTS**

**Executive Minister**

Shannon McCarthy reported. Her full report is in the docket.

Shannon spoke about Covid and the trials that it presented for individuals and communities. She acknowledged all the ministers who had to learn youTube and Zoom etc. Thank you to the congregations who were patient. We are all in this together.

She encouraged delegates to remember that this is YOUR regional council. What do you want to do? What committee do you want to be on?

Shannon introduced the regional staff.

**Executive Chair**

Our former chair, Jeanette Taylor, took the chair as Darrell Reine reported. His full report in the docket.

Darrell spoke about the challenge of discerning a good path. How do we continue to work on that path together and do the things we are called to do? Step up, support each other and staff.

Darrell thanked the Executive members for the work that they do.

Pray for those doing this work.

**General Council**

Jennifer Janzen Ball reported on behalf of General Council.

She spoke about the strategic plan for Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. There are 6 objectives: growth, justice, leadership, common good, climate, and indigenous pathways.

Jennifer spoke about the new Growth Animator position which has been filled by Cam Fraser.

The self insurance program was rolled out in December. It will reduce insurance cost by about 30%. Working to add new communities of faith. Jennifer discussed the quarterly reports.

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne will be working on a 3 pronged project: flourishing, monthly online book club, and leadership school.

The United Church is turning 100 in 2025. There is a Centennial Committee that will begin work soon.

**Moderator**

A video greeting from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne was shared.

**Finance**

Heather Dootoff reported. The audited financial statement was provided for review in binders on the tables (and available online).

In 2022 we had total revenue of 954,566 and total expenses of 773,407 resulting in a surplus of 181,159

Just over 80,000 of the surplus is in restricted and designated funds and just under \$100,000 is in operating surplus.

Revenue was \$320,000 over budget – largely due to closure of Lashburn UC, final funds from 3rd Avenue and sale of Hawarden-Loreburn manse. There was also \$76,000 in Moat revenue. (oil royalty and lease revenue) Investment revenue of 90,000 was offset by a drop in market value of 84,000 in the funds held by BMO

From the unbudgeted revenue there were financial obligations to Mission and Service and Indigenous Ministries, as well as the commitment the successor to the ANCC funds which resulted in being overbudget in program expenses by \$146,000

The largest expense area was salary and benefits at just under \$400,000

We have \$3,517,822 in assets, including 766,000 in operating surplus and \$2.7m in restricted/designated funds. 890,000 of the restricted/designated funds are funds being held for other entities – that being the successor to ANCC and Riverbend ICM. There are \$30,000 in liabilities.

Aside from the 2022 surplus the biggest change to the balance sheet was a \$30,000 loan made to St. Martin's UC to assist with the purchase of equipment associated with becoming a Hub in the Rural Connect program

A future change of note would be the changes to our agreements with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. Late 2022 we were advised that the agreement to share an archivist would not be renewed, resulting in the loss of Madeleine McLuhen Myers effective March 31 2023 and the need to relocate our archives as of March 2025.

Temporary coverage has been secured with the assistance of archivists from Prairie to Pine and Northern Spirit and discussions are underway regarding potential space.

**Pastoral Relations**

Tracy Murton reported. A full report is in the docket.

Tracy encouraged delegates to get involved in the regions work. We cannot do the work without the volunteers.

She spoke about pastoral charge supervisors. Huge percentage in this room either have one or are one. Should pastoral charge supervisors be a paid position? How can we reimagine our boundaries? Happy to hear thoughts and ideas.

**Justice & Communications**

Julie Graham reported.

Thank you to everybody who have exemplified the Christian call to justice over the last 3 years. Stepping up for the wider community in radical ways. Especially in the middle of a pandemic.

Continuing the work of supporting affirming task group, right relations, climate justice, restorative justice, integrated ministries poverty,

The Justice committee needs members.

**ST. ANDREWS**

Video greetings from St. Andrew's college was shared.

**LISTEN & DISCUSS: Affirm Proposal**

The Affirm Task group presented the proposal.

Table groups were provided time to discuss the affirm proposal. Then provided the opportunity to ask some questions.

**MEMORIAL WORSHIP**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned for the night at 9:00 pm.

**FRIDAY**

**POW WOW**

On Friday, delegates were invited to attend a local pow wow which included lunch.

**THEME 1 & 2**

Chief Cadmus Delorme from Cowessess First Nation spoke.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned for the night at 8:30 pm.

**SATURDAY**

**WORSHIP**

The worship team led us in worship.

**SPEAKER**

Elder Liz Settee joined us and shared about her life being a first nations person and all that entailed.

**LISTEN & DISCUSS: Remit**

Charlene and Russ Burns were joined by Delores Kenny, and Deb Anderson Pratt.

Charlene & Russ performed a smudging ceremony.

A video was shared regarding the remit.

Shannon McCarthy explained the voting process.

Table groups were provided the time for discussion but were asked to save their questions until after lunch.

**YOUTH**

Lindsay Mohn was joined by Rod Leuty (volunteer), Megan Drabble (youth representative), Kyle Feader (Saskatoon and area youth minister), Josie Williamson (YAYAC Animator) and Sam Clayton (congregational designated minister).

Together they reported on behalf of YAYAC (Youth and Young Adult Community).

They shared all the different ways YAYAC continues to work in church communities and Living Skies Region:

- Communication through newsletters, web pages and social media (tiktok, Facebook and Instagram)
- Events such as retreats, confirmation classes, two youth retreats each year, Campalooza, confirmation weekend and youth at Regional Council
- Camps and outdoor ministries
- Resources and funding
- Weekly youth groups

Thank you to all who sponsor youth to attend events.

**DISCUSS**

Discussion regarding the remit was led by Shannon McCarthy. Table groups and delegates were encouraged to ask questions.

Delegates were invited to review the study guide on the General Council 44 website for further information. Relevant videos and materials from this meeting will be put together in a package to be provided to congregations as information to be used when making this decision.

**DECIDE**

**Remit 1:**

Does the regional council agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- a. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows:
  - (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council\*; and
  - (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
- b. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union\*\*; and
- c. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

**CARRIED**

**Affirm Proposal 1:**

The Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Task Group moves that the Living Skies Regional Council applies to become an Affirming Region; endorses the Regional Affirming Statement; directs the Executive Council of Living Skies Regional Council and the Executive Minister to complete the process of

accreditation with Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble (AUSE); and plans a Public, intentional and explicit (PIE) celebration for the 2024 General Meeting of LSRC.

**Moved by:** Robert Hayes

**Seconded by:** Effie Wakentine

**CARRIED**

**Affirm Proposal 2:**

The Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Task Group moves that the Living Skies Regional Council disbands the Task Group and creates an ongoing Affirming Committee to carry out the continuing journey of living into being an Affirming Region.

**Moved by:** Robert Hayes

**Seconded by:** Dawn Webber

**CARRIED**

**CLUSTERS &  
NETWORKS**

Delegates were invited to gather based on clusters and network groupings.

**CLOSING WORSHIP**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**CELEBRATION OF  
MINISTRY  
BANQUET**

Catherine Christie hosted, Michele Rowe and Allan Gairns spoke as retirees and the ordinands were introduced by Laura Fohse - Sarah Giles and Minhyuk Hwang.

**SUNDAY**

**SERVICE OF  
PRAISE**