

**Living Skies Executive Minutes
June 26, 2025 at 3:30 pm via Zoom**

EXECUTIVE PRESENT	Piotr Strzelecki (Chair), Deborah Springer, Doug Haroldson, David Mugadzi A quorum was present.
REGRETS	Darrell Reine, Dale Worrall (Treasurer),
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT	
STAFF PRESENT	Shannon McCarthy (Executive Minister); Julie Graham (Justice & Communications Minister); Heather Dootoff (Finance Administrator), Bev Diebert (Administrative Support); Chantal Winslow (Executive Assistant & Recording Secretary), Tracy Murton (Pastoral Relations Minister);
CALL TO ORDER	Piotr called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm. We checked in and Piotr led us in reflection & prayer.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	We reviewed the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 001-2025/2026	It was agreed by consensus: That Living Skies Regional Council Executive approve the minutes of March 28, 2025 as distributed.
BUSINESS ARISING Archives Update	Shannon provided a brief update about the status of Grace Westminster in Saskatoon. We don't currently have access to the building. Getting the shelves ready and waiting for the go ahead. Leanne will be travelling to help with the move when it is time.
Staffing Updates	Tabled until Fall
Purpose of Regional Reps	Tabled until Fall
Emergency and Legacy Funds for Congregations	Heather will touch base with Dale and Doug regarding this matter.
Don Elliot Trust	Darrell has not heard back from Estevan.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Dave re Moratorium

We have received an email letting us know that a two year moratorium is now in place to halt the logging operations in the forest between Shellbrook and Crutwell. Received for information.

Anniversary Letter

We received a letter from the Mennonite Church of Saskatchewan congratulating us on our anniversary. Received for info.

To do:

- Chantal will send a thank you letter on behalf of the region/Shannon

GreenSpirit Report June 2025

Received for info

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Dates

We reviewed the meeting dates for the upcoming year. We will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 3:30 pm. We made two changes as follows:

October meeting will take place on October 16

May meeting will take place on May 21

To do:

- Chantal will send out the list of upcoming meetings later in the summer.

Decision Making and online responses

Piotr raised the question of how we can facilitate making decisions in a timely manner when we are needing to do so via email between meetings. Recently we have had two decisions that were fairly urgent and we had little to no replies to the email that was sent out.

We require 1/3 of membership for quorum (this would mean 3 members). When the email goes out, Piotr will specify the date that a response needs to be received by.

AGM – Online Nov 2025

Our AGM for 2025 will take place online on Nov 4 and 6, 2025.

Do you want to help plan? Let Chantal know.

AGM – In person 2027

Our 2027 AGM will be in person. The dates are May 27-30, 2027.

We should be planning to get a committee together in September.

FINANCE

002-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Executive approve Shannon McCarthy and Piotr Strzelecki to be listed as CRA Charity “Owners” for Living Skies Regional Council.

003-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus that Living Skies Regional Council add Francesca Martina and Dale Worrall to the Conex Credit Union account as authorized individuals to

sign cheques and approve e-transfers, instructions and on-line payments. Signers on the account will therefore be Shannon McCarthy, Francesca Martina, Dale Worrall, Bev Diebert, Heather Dootoff and Darrell Reine, any two to sign.

- 004-2025/2026** It was agreed by consensus that Living Skies Regional Council add Francesca Martina and Dale Worrall as signers on the BMO Wealth Management/BMO Nesbitt Burns account. Shannon McCarthy can remain as a signer and Heather Dootoff can be removed. Any two of three can provide instructions.
- 005-2025/2026** It was agreed by consensus that Living Skies Regional Council add Francesca Martina and Dale Worrall as signers on the Frontier Capital Fund account(s). Shannon McCarthy can remain as a signer and Heather Dootoff can be removed. Any two of three can provide instructions.
- 006-2025/2026** It was agreed by consensus that Francesca Martina be authorized to communicate with CRA on behalf of the organization and use the Represent a Client function.
- 007-2025/2026** It was agreed by consensus that Francesca Martina be authorized to act on behalf of Living Skies Regional Council on the Paypal account.
- 008-2025/2026** It was agreed by consensus that Francesca Martina be authorized to act on behalf of Living Skies Regional Council on the Diner's Account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Co-chairs Piotr attended the opening function for Oliver and Lydia Grucci Learning Center at St. Andrew's College.

Piotr drafted a letter regarding the fires and our obligations as a region.
<https://livingskiesrc.ca/call-to-support-those-affected-by-the-wildfires-in-the-north/>

Committee on Lay Leadership Support Having received the required documentation and successfully completed the interview process and mandatory training, the Committee on Lay Leadership Support recommends that Living Skies Regional Council Executive renew licenses for the following Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028:

- Kendra Gonzy
- Ruth Mostowy
- Gloria Prentice
- Gwen Reilkoff
- Jennifer Yasinowski

009-2025/2026 It was agreed by consensus:
That Living Skies Executive approve the renewal of licenses for the following Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028:

- Kendra Gonzy
- Ruth Mostowy
- Gloria Prentice

- **Gwen Reilkoff**
- **Jennifer Yasinowski**

Equity and Diversity NA

YAAAY NA

Property Received their report for information (attached).

Motions to come later.

**Incorporated
Ministries
010-2025/2026**

**It was agreed by consensus:
That Living Skies Executive approve the following:**

a. Camp Shagabec Committee

**...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff,
pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church
of Canada approve BYLAWS as approved by the members on March
29, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as Camp Shagabec
Committee**

**... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United
Church of Canada approve the Camp Shagabec Committee 2025-
2026 Board of Directors**

**Jillian Buye
Kyle Caswell
Julie Dvorackova
David Fletcher
Katherine Fletcher
Mike O'Donnell
Natasha Pettyjohn
Grady Rowley
Dylan Stark
Collin Stumpf**

***These are based on the draft AGM Minutes of March 29, 2025, the
2025 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt
of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries
Policy of The United Church of Canada.***

**b. Camp Tapawingo Tamarack Presbytery United Church of
Canada Inc.**

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Camp Tapawingo Tamarack Presbytery United Church of Canada Inc. 2024-2025 Board of Directors

**Carmen Bellehumeur
Chris Clayton
Shane Dubyk
Reece Forrester
Ferrah Graham
Christine Klatt-Pearse
Clare Middleton
Karen Parenteau
Shelby Rheume**

This is based on the draft 2024 Minutes of the Camp Tapawingo Annual General Meeting of June 1, 2025, the 2024 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

Nominations NA

Other

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Minister

Francesca Martina was hired as our new Finance admin. She is starting July 2 and will work with Heather before she officially retires on August 15.

Chantal has arranged a meeting for our new Executive chairs to meet in August. A big part of that conversation will revolve around speaking about Towards 2035

Shannon was honored to represent the regional councils at the anniversary festivities in St. Johns.

David had submitted a request to support David participating in a gathering of ministers from the African context. That was approved by Heather, Shannon and Tracy.

The work of the Knox Commission has been completed. We want to give a big thank you to the entire committee for their work.

011-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Executive approve the disbanding of the Knox Commission with thanks.

To do:

- Bev will send out thank you notes to the Knox Committee members: Christa Eidness, Mitchell Anderson, Linda Gunningham, Brian Tudor

**Pastoral Relations
Minister**

This month has been the for a number of things: pastoral relationships ending due to retirement or people moving, and a number of churches having their final worship service.

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support has tried to get some traction on gathering for retirees but has had little success. This will be a big piece of work to focus on for the fall.

The Committee on Community Faith Support has been busy contacting each community of faith whose annual report that they receive and read. Very exciting engagement.

**Justice &
Communications**

Report to Living Skies Executive June 2025, Communications and Justice Minister
Wildfires

Thank you to our chair for [writing this letter](#) as yet again, communities in the North faced early and intense wildfires. This is our new normal. I would like to suggest we work on setting up a tri-Region committee to look at emergency responses, fundraising, trauma support, and discussions of climate change impacts.

Gaza: We had an excellent and heart wrenching event on Gaza and why aid is not getting in, hosted by the Living Skies Just Peace group, with 50 people in attendance, including people from Ontario. The speakers and moderator were just excellent, as were the questions. In the midst of this horror, we continue to work alongside people who are incredibly courageous, knowledgeable, and skilled. Once the video is vetted and edited, it will be available. [The event details are here.](#)

Affirming work

All three Regional Affirming Committees met together and said they want to continue that practice twice yearly, with some collaborative tri-Region education and pastoral events.

UCC Apology to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA people, August 8 at General Council

Affirming Committees in Prairie to Pine and Northern Spirit have discussed subsidizing limited in person participation from two groups at the Apology in Calgary:

Affirming Committee members and/ or Executive members;

Elders and leaders in the Affirming movement, especially those hurt by the church and who wish to attend.

Again, limited numbers are proposed. And many may not be able to attend or won't wish to. In a discussion with a Regional colleague in ON, **we wondered if a \$500 limit on individual subsidies would be workable. Northern Spirit and Prairie to Pine have not discussed subsidy amounts; this discussion began only two days ago.**

In addition, the committee will be inviting as many churches as possible to hold communal in-person participation in the online Apology worship, so pastoral support can be offered and the Apology heard and given as a community. While the Apology will be welcomed by many, and difficult for many.

012-2025/2026

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Executive approve up to \$3000 to subsidize travel for individuals to attend the Apology in Calgary on August 8. Names of individuals will be decided by Shannon McCarthy, Piotr Strzelecki and Julie Graham.

**ONGOING BUSINESS
Towards 2035**

Shannon will meet with the chairs of the regions to discuss how our executive will go forward while focusing on Towards 2035. GC45 will also be focusing on this. We will discuss this further in the fall.

**EMAIL MOTIONS
Passed May 14, 2025
013-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

**That Living Skies Executive approve the following nominations
Michael Webster to Property Commission
Roland Legge to Ministry Personnel Support
Lilac Colibaba to Affirming Team
Vicki Nelson to Grants Committee**

**Passed May 14, 2025
014-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Executive approve the appointment of Piotr Strzelecki as the Chairperson of the Regional Council Executive.

(Piotr Abstained from voting)

**Passed May 14, 2025
015-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Regional Council Executive having received confirmation of readiness of the following candidate from the Office of Vocation and confirmed through Living Skies Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission that a covenantal relationship is in place with a community of faith, will hold a Celebration of Ministries service on May 25, 2025 in Saskatoon, SK to recognize Dale Worrall. (The Manual H.4.8).

**Passed June 5, 2025
016-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Executive approve the appointment of Christa Eidsness to the Pastoral Relations Commission.

**Passed June 12, 2025
017-2025/2026**

It was agreed by consensus:

That Living Skies Executive approve the 2024 audited financial statement.

Heather provided the following explanation about the audit

- It is a clean audit – no concerns were identified

- At the end of 2024 we had \$4,392,031 in assets, \$22,941 in accounts payable. \$3,339,745 of the assets are in restricted funds (Financial Position page 4)
- We experienced a surplus of \$748, 610, instead of the budgeted deficit of \$135,002. This is largely due to the money received from the sale of Wesley UC (\$450,000) and investment income. The unrealized gain on investments of \$186,205 is only realized if we sell those investments at the same value or more, that they were valued at as of Dec 31, 2024 . (statement of operations page 5)
- The last page of the audit shows the value of the various restricted funds a the end of 2024. The top two funds (ANCC and MVUC in trust for ICM) are funds we hold for other organizations ... this amounts to \$961,641 which are not our funds.
- We do not budget for income and expenses in the restricted funds, because those funds are only available for the designated usage. Historically I have not budget investment revenue, in 2025 I have included a minimal figure for misc revenue.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be September 25, 2025 at 3:30 pm.
David has volunteered to provide us with an opening

ADJOURNMENT

4:41

The Rev Piotr Strzelecki V.D.M.

The Rev. Piotr Strzelecki
Chairperson

SMcCarthy

Shannon McCarthy
Executive Minister

