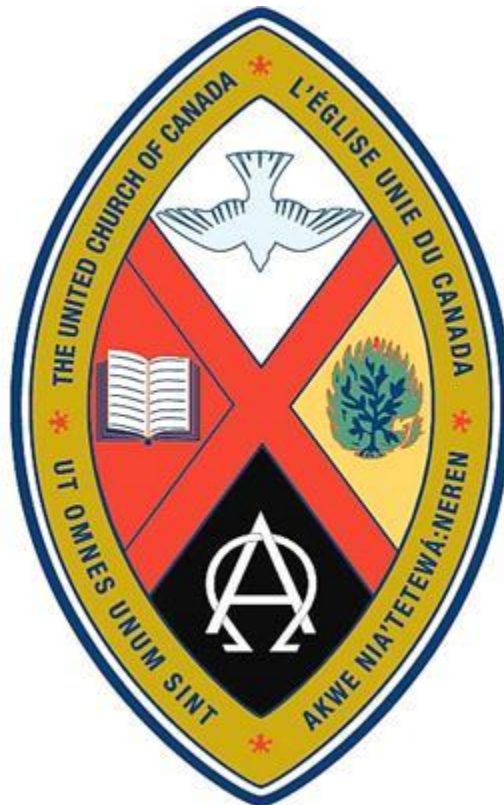


Chinook Winds Regional Council Minutes Sept 15-17, 2020

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Minutes of the Second General Meeting

Chinook Winds Regional Council

Theme - Radical Inclusion

The United Church of Canada

Online Whova meeting

September 15-17, 2020

First Session: 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 15, 2020

- 1. Authority:** Pursuant to the authority of the 43rd General Council of the United Church of Canada (2018) and in the name of Jesus Christ, the second General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council convened online on the Whova platform and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it. A quorum was present.
- 2. Welcome and Acknowledgement:** Helen Reed, Presiding Officer of the Chinook Winds Regional Council, welcomed delegates to the meeting, where we not only do the business of our church, but also learn and grow together in our faith. She read the following land acknowledgement: “The Chinook Winds Region is located on Treaty 4, Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 territories, and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3, which is the home of the Blackfoot Confederacy, including Siksika, Piikani and Kainai, the Tsuut'tina Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda First Nation. Our Region is also located on the traditional meeting grounds and traveling route to the Cree, Saulteux, Dene and Nakota Sioux peoples. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries and affirm our commitment to the principles and actions of reconciliation.”
- 3. Leadership:** Helen Reed, our Presiding Chair, introduced the leadership of our Region: Treena Duncan is our Executive Minister; Dave Pollard is our Business Convenor; Vicki McPhee is our Worship Convenor. The executive members are: Kevin Dorma, Francis Liu, Eric Page, Alwin Maben, Vicki McPhee, Bill Moore, Helen Reed. John Snow and Bob Wallace were also part of the Executive but were unable to continue in their positions because they moved out of the Region.
- 4. Greetings from the Moderator:** We were greeted by the Moderator of the United Church, Richard Bott in a video presentation.
- 5. Worship:** Vicki McPhee led us in worship based on Romans 15:7. What does Radical Inclusion mean for you? She led us in a prayer for guidance.

6. **Retiree:** Hele Reed said that today we celebrate the Ministry of Retiring Minister Ross Smillie. We watched a video about his call to ministry. He talked about the story of Moses and the voice from the burning bush which was not consumed. Racial, religious, cultural conflict just goes on and on without burning out. This tension can be considered a blessing, where there is holy ground. Richard Bott brought comfortable words for Ross upon his retirement. Ross has offered his life to the United Church of Canada and to its people. The Moderator thanked Ross for sharing his love in this manner. Helen Reed told Ross Smillie: "The Chinook Winds Region offers you gratitude for your dedication and contribution to the church and people you have served. May you continue to live your faith with joy and laughter as the spirit moves you into this new time of your living."

7. **Business:** David Pollard introduced the business of the meeting. He presented Order Paper Number 1:

Order Paper 1: Constituting the Court and Organizing Business

M/S David Pollard/ MI Yeon Kim

Be it resolved that:

- The General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council be held on September 15-17, 2020.
- The goals of this meeting shall be making connections, nominating executive and committee members, approving, and enabling the faithful work of the church in the Region moving forward.
- The bar of council be established as the ZOOM portion embedded in the Whova App. Recognizing we have the ability to speak, be heard and test the will of the court in a fulsome manner.
- That Helen Reed, Presiding Officer and Kathy Yamashita, Recording Secretary for this meeting be affirmed in their roles.
- Regional Council staff, General Council guests, Candidates for Ministry not in an Appointment and Speakers and Presenters, be appointed as corresponding members of the court.
- That Alan Buckingham be empowered to tabulate, and report results of votes to the Business Committee Chair.

Organizing Business

Also be it resolved that:

- The Reports distributed in the Agenda Booklet, the Interim Financial Reports, and the Report of the Nomination Committee be received for information.
- Nominations for Chinook Winds Regional Council Executive and all Committees close at 4:30 MDT September 15, 2020.

- New Business be presented to the business committee in writing who will recommend appropriate action to the court. The Business committee is available remotely.
- That unfinished business be referred to the Chinook Winds regional Council Executive.
- That the Executive Minister is invited to hear the intent of the court and to ensure the minutes of the General Meeting, and forthcoming policies of the Region reflect the will of the court.

MOTION IS CARRIED

8. **Theme -Radical Inclusion #1:** Helen Reed said that she is proud of the Chinook Winds Regional Executive, employees and volunteers who have come together in an encouraging manner to organize a strong Chinook Winds Region practising fierce love. Treena Duncan introduced **Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder** our theme speaker. Her call to “blend proclamation, worship, service and advocacy on behalf of those most marginalized in church and in society” led to the founding of the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in 1991 in San Francisco. In 2003, Rev. Dr. Flunder was consecrated as Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multid denominational coalition of over 100 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity. She is the author of *Where the Edge Gathers: A Theology of Homiletic and Radical Inclusion*.

Bishop Flunder highlighted the scripture passage *Acts 9- The confrontation between Saul and Ananias* which relates the story of the transformation of Saul to Paul.

Presently the reality in the United States is an “Us and Them-ness” dichotomy which is present daily in the Mask/No Mask response to Covid-19, Black Lives matter or not, LGBTQ matters or not. This attitude hinders change. Jesus and his followers taught radical inclusion in The Way which is radical love for the other. She encouraged us to find common causes to work together to lift up the marginalized. This is The Way.

- After her powerful presentation she answered questions from participants.

9. Helen Reed recessed this session at 4:20 p.m. with a benediction.

Second Session: 9:30 a.m. September 16, 2020

10. Helen Reed opened this session at 9:30 a.m. with a worship service around our theme of Radical Inclusion.
11. **In Memoriam:** Helen Reed asked us to remember those members and leaders of our Region’s Church Family who have passed away this year. There was a video mourning the losses of Alex Lawson, James L. George, Harry Taylor, Henry Friesen, Frank Johnson, and Jim Hillson. Helen offered a prayer of healing.

12. **Nominations Committee:** Dave Pollard introduced Tammy Allan from the Nominations Committee who thanked Sue Brodrick and Kathy Yamashita who were on the Nominations Committee. She expressed gratitude to Helen Reed who is moving to another Region, for serving as the Presiding Officer and to John Snow and Bob Wallace, Executive committee members who resigned earlier due to a change in residence.

She explained that the goal was to find balance in geography, gender, lay/ordered, indigenous, diaconal /ordained, and intercultural presence.

The following persons will stay on as Executive members this year:

Vicki McPhee- Calgary
Kevin Dorma- Innisfail
Frances Liu- Calgary
Alwin Maben- Coronation
Bill Moore-Calgary
Eric Page`-Calgary
David Pollard- Medicine Hat

The Nominating Committee offered the following slate of persons to serve on the Executive Committee of the Chinook Winds Regional Council:

Joanne Anquist- Calgary.
Trevor Potter-Lethbridge.
Gloria Snow- Morley, Canmore
Deborah Springer- Trochu

Other Nominations:

Affirming Connections Task Group: Tracey Robertson and Bill Moore with others to be added by Executive action.

Nominations Committee: Tammy Allan with others to be added by Executive action.

Remembering the Children Society: one person to be named by Executive action.

- David Pollard asked if there were any other nominations three times.

MOTION #2: Acceptance of Nominations Committee report

M/S David Pollard/Tammy Allen

Be it resolved that Chinook Winds Regional Council approves the report of the Nominations Committee with gratitude.

CARRIED

- David Pollard said that nominations forms are available to the delegates for the as yet unfilled positions.

MOTION#3: Empower Executive to approve other nominations until next General Meeting

M/S David Pollard/Taylor Croissant

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council empowers its Executive to be given authority to approve nominations until the next General Meeting.

CARRIED

David Pollard introduced Remit # 1 and advised that the vote will take place tomorrow.

Remit #1: Amendment to the Basis of Union's Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel

Background:

The 43rd General Council 2019:

- (i) Approved a change to Article 10.0 of the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and
- (ii) Authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The Question:

Does the Regional Council agree that:

- (a) The Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and
- (b) The Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 the Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.

13. **Report from Western Intercultural Ministry Network:** We viewed a video prepared by Alwin Maben on the Western Intercultural Ministry Network activities.
14. **Affirming Connections:** Helen Reed said that last year we had passed a motion directing the Chinook Winds Region to begin the work to consider becoming an affirming region of The United Church of Canada: Pam Rocker, the Director of Affirming Connections introduced herself and led us in a workshop. She explained LGBTQA+ , Intersex, and Two Spirit definitions.
 - **What does Affirming mean:** there are 20 affirming pastoral charges in our Region. Affirming means that the church is accepting and positive in fully integrating LGBTQA+I2S persons.
 - **PIE: "Public Intentional Explicit"** Is your ministry **public** in its affirmation? Are you deliberate in and **intentional** in your declaration of affirmation? Affirming

ministries should be **explicitly** loud and proud about their affirming status.

March 14 is PIE day every year.

- **Affirming = futurity:** We all need community that values all of us. There is so much kindness in consistently asking, “Who are you now”? There is so much love in allowing people to be continually new to us. “To love someone is not so much to know them, as it is to know their never-ending becoming.” – Andrea Gibson from @enfleshed. Allow yourself to be moved by curiosity and the Spirit.
- **Affirming Committee:** At this time, no Region of the United Church of Canada has become Affirming. It is suggested that there be 75% in agreement when a Region votes to become Affirming.
- **Action Plan, Responsibilities of the Regional Council:** If a Region becomes Affirming, it does not mean that all ministries in the Region will automatically become or required to become Affirming.
- **Dismantling oppression:** interpersonal oppression happens to individuals e.g. being followed by a store clerk. This can cause emotional distress. Beneath the surface is Institutional oppression which is held up by systemic discrimination e.g. Lack of accessibility in building design. When oppressive actions and beliefs are considered normal, then institutional discrimination is believed to be right. e.g. the 7 bible passages which have been incorrectly employed to power discrimination against people who are LGBTQA+I 2S.
- **Next steps, hearing from you:**

15. **M&S :** Jane Harding is the Stewardship and Gifts Officer for the diverse Regions of western Canada. She believes that one of the ways that we show our love is to donate to Mission and Service work of the United Church of Canada. Our denomination has gathered \$260,000 for Covid Relief in the world. There are resources available to enrich worship services on the M&S web page in addition to the Minutes for Mission.

16. **Recess for Lunch:** We recessed for lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Third Session: 2:00 p.m. September 16, 2020
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17. Helen Reed reconvened the Regional Council and asked us to hold a certain clergy family in prayer as they face his impending loss.

18. **Theme – Radical Inclusion #2:** Treena Duncan introduced **Bishop Yvette Flunder** who spoke to us from Numbers 11:26-30, where the Lord conferred the gift of prophecy even to two who did not attend the high meeting with the Lord. The word prophecy means to speak of things to come and to speak forth about what God is doing right now. What is a true prophetic denomination? It is one that can see and sense what is coming and

what is no longer useful and what the Spirit is saying to us. This is the easy part. The complicated part is when one forth-tells, shares the prophecy with others. This can put us in harm's way if it is not a convenient truth.

Where are the prophets in our world of troubles, where there is always someone held low to keep other people up high? Our church needs unconventional radical voices ready to deal with the hard issues so that we can promote peace and love.

The Spirit cannot be confined to the walls set up as constructs by people. Radical Inclusion means that The Spirit flows through us to everybody.

- Bishop Flunder answered many questions from the delegates. She differentiated between culture which can divide us and the active embracing of the love and good in people. The issues in our messy world like climate change and severe weather, locusts and Covid, call for a radical response. What an incredible time for the church to come alive. Each of us has something that we can do to bring about change.

19. **Regional Priorities:** Helen Reed introduced Eric Page, a member of the Executive Committee to talk about a financial concern. He said that the 2020 transfer funds from General Council will be reduced by \$40,000, less than last year's \$289,000. He wanted us to discuss what our Regional Priorities are so that the Executive knows how to shape our budget.

Last year we set up priorities. We were asked to guide the work of the Regional staff by talking about our 2020 priorities. Initially a poll was taken to choose the highest three priorities from among the areas below. There was a 5-minute breakout session to discuss again and then there was another poll taken.

- Living into Right Relations
- Intercultural Awareness
- Affirming Attitude
- Supporting Mental Health Issues
- Pastoral Care
- Youth and Young Adult /Children's Ministry
- Clusters and Networks
- Communication
- Community of faith strengthening
- Learning opportunities and Leadership Support

After the second poll there were three topics that seemed high: **Living into Right Relations** (reconciliation), **Community of Faith strengthening** and **Youth and Young Adult Ministry**.

Helen Reed thanked the delegates for their work. Treena Duncan said that there are programs started by Pacific Mountain Region that are available to Chinook Winds Region to support Communities of Faith.

20. Helen Reed recessed the court with benediction at 4:25 p.m.

Fourth Session: 1:30 p.m. September 17, 2020

21. Helen Reed reconvened us at 1:30 p.m. We took part in opening worship led by Vicki McPhee.

22. **Review of Nominations Process:** David Pollard reviewed the nominations process of Chinook Winds Region as there had been some questions about it yesterday. Helen Reed told the delegates to carefully consider if they are called to the Chinook Winds Executive and its committees. She hopes that next year the process will begin earlier.

23. **Theme- Radical Inclusion #3:** We heard from **Bishop Yvette Flunder** who opened with a story from 1st Samuel 4:21 where the Philistines took away the Ark of the Covenant, killing the priests. The glory of God was taken away. The wife of the younger priest died after giving premature birth to her son, Ichabod. What do we do when change makes us feel that the glory of God in the past is gone? Bishop Flunder lives in California where earthquakes are a frequent occurrence. Californians construct buildings to be more earthquake proof, so that structures will sway instead of break.

In the church, reformations act in the way that earthquakes bring down monuments. The glory of God is not located within a structure or a system but moves with its people in response to the call of God. We want to go with God. Monuments are not built for movement.

Movements freed the slaves, brought equal rights, and brought worker's rights. Movements can shift ideologies and denominations. God can shift our goals and change our direction. She talked about the process of giving birth and there is no arguing with the need for the baby to take its first breath when the placenta separates. There is no time for meetings and consensus.

Sometimes we cannot embrace radical inclusion because we are focussed on maintaining our institutions. Proactive change will interrupt stability. But the glory of God is in the movement, like fresh flowing water. Monuments may fall but movements will continue to travel to love, righteousness and truth. Go with the glory of God.

- Bishop Flunder answered questions from the delegates. She encouraged us to be risk takers to follow the glory of God.

24. **Constitution of the Chinook Winds Region Executive:** David Pollard introduced this motion which is meant to clarify the number of Executive Members.

MOTION # 4: Constitution of the Executive Committee

M/S David Pollard/Susan Brodrick

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional Executive consists of 8-12 members including the Executive Minister.

CARRIED

25. **Remit #1:** see background to Remit #1 on page 5.

10.0 the Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.

CARRIED (122 yes, 1 no, 2 abstentions)

26. **Brenda Fawkes:** lives in North Vancouver. She is the United Church Office of Vocation Minister for the Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Region and that this Office is still growing up in its strengths, like a toddler. She talked about the Candidacy work : there are 53 students somewhere in this process and there are 7-10 inquirers. Samuel Grottenberg and Vicki McPhee are our Chinook Winds representatives on the Candidacy board. She said that the Church Hub is becoming more efficient. She helps to resource the United Church policies for Sexual Harassment, Workplace Abuse and Discrimination. She works closely with our Executive Minister, Treena Duncan and Lee Spice, our Pastoral Relations officer.
27. **Candidate for Ministry:** we viewed **John Snow Jr.**'s video greeting.
28. **Affirming Connections:** Pam Rocker answered delegates' questions about embracing Affirming Connections.
29. **Budget:** Helen Reed said that the Regional Council will not be passing the 2020 budget. We have offered our three priorities for Regional direction yesterday and then the Executive Minister and the Executive Committee will create a budget. The 2020 Budget and other Financial information has been made available in the agenda package.
30. **Appreciation:** Helen expressed our thankfulness for the following Regional Staff Team who have been so flexible during these Covid times.
- Treena Duncan, Executive Minister
 - Lee Spice, Pastoral Relations Minister

- Chris Mah Poy, Pastoral Relations, Networks and Program Support
- Mauricio Araujo, Executive Assistant and Administration Support
- Shelley Den Haan, Cluster Support and Communications (Newsletter Editor)
- Joel Den Haan, Property and Community of Faith Support (Consultant)
- Karen Norrie, Bookkeeper
- John Den Hoed, Finance Office
- Regional Positions Supported by Mission Grant Support
 - Geoffrey Simmons, Pastoral Care and Hospital Ministry
 - Tony Snow, Urban Indigenous Ministry
- General Council Staff
 - Brenda Fawkes, Office of Vocation
 - Jane Harding, Stewardship and Gifts officer.

Helen also thanked the following people for their work in making this meeting happen.

- Kathy Yamashita, Recording Secretary
- Allan Buckingham, IT facilitator and Geek of High Standing
- Planning Team was Treena Duncan, Helen Reed, Vicki McPhee, and Dave Pollard

Treena Duncan especially thanked Helen Reed for her work as she chaired the Executive Committee meetings with her gifts of clarity, knowledge, and humor. We wish her great luck as she moves to her new Community of Faith in Camrose. Treena gave her a gift on behalf of the Region and offered a prayer for a safe transition.

31. Helen Reed told us that our next meeting will be in the spring of 2021. She recessed us at 4:20 p.m.

Fifth Session: 7:00 p.m. September 17, 2020
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Celebration of Ministry: The court convened virtually at 7:00 p.m. in a Celebration of Ministry worship service at Symons Valley United Church in Calgary, where the Presiding Officer, Helen Reed and the Executive Minister, Treena Duncan accomplished the ordination of John Snow Jr. Vicki McPhee joined Helen and Treena to conduct the worship service which followed.

Adjournment: The Presiding Officer, Helen Reed, adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. with commission and benediction.

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SIGNATURE PAGE

CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL



Rev. Helen Reed, Presiding Officer

Rev. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister