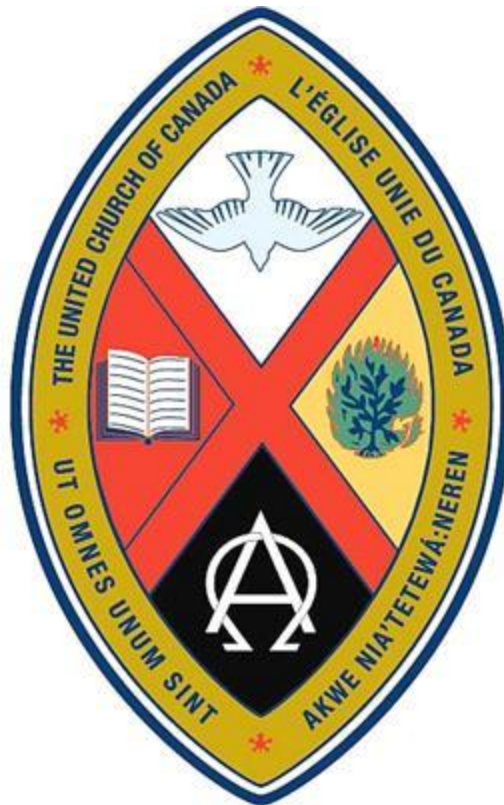


## Chinook Winds Regional Council Minutes May 7-9, 2021

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## Minutes of the Third General Meeting

### Chinook Winds Regional Council

*Theme – Seeding Hope*

The United Church of Canada

Online Zoom meeting

May 7-9, 2021



#### First Session: 9:00 a.m. Friday, May 7, 2021

1. **Authority:** Pursuant to the authority of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council of the United Church of Canada (2018) and in the name of Jesus Christ, the third General Meeting of the Chinook Winds Regional Council convened online on the Zoom platform and was declared open to conduct the business properly before it. A quorum was present.
2. **Welcome and Acknowledgement:** Vikki McPhee, Presiding Officer of the Chinook Winds Regional Council since November 2020, welcomed delegates to the meeting. Our Indigenous Lead, Tony Snow acknowledged that 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. Treena Duncan offered her thanks for the gift of the red jingle dress that she received from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women ceremony earlier this week.

3. **Greetings from the Moderator:** We were greeted by the Moderator of the United Church, Richard Bott in a video presentation.
4. **Worship:** Rev. Joanne Anquist led us in worship. She talked about planting seeds in good soil (Matthew 13: 1-4). The message was given by Rev. Eva Biederman of Airdrie United Church. Dr. William Brooke (Vancouver School of Theology student) from Hillhurst United Church led us in a breath meditation. Much of the music on YouTube was from the Good Shepherd Collective in New York.
5. **Remarks of the Presiding Officer:** Vicki McPhee talked about the challenges of meeting virtually from all of our locations. She introduced the updated agenda that has been distributed online to the delegates. She talked about some deadlines for Commissioners and Executive candidates which is 5 p.m. today. There is room for 10 persons for the General Council commissioners. There will be a deadline of 9 p.m. tonight for proposals. She encouraged the delegates to read the Workbook for this meeting which highlights the work of our Region.
 

She said that in the past 14 months we have existed on the zoom platform which can be a challenge for many. She encouraged us to make time for ourselves if needed today.
6. **Introduction of Executive and Staff:** She introduced the members of the Executive below and acknowledged Eric Paget who had resigned. She thanked the organizers of this meeting: herself, Deborah Churchill-Springer, Joanne Anquist, David Pollard, and Treena Duncan. She introduced the members of the Region Staff.

#### **Chinook Winds Regional Council Executive**

Presiding Officer	Vicki McPhee
Executive Minister	Treena Duncan
Directors	Joanne Anquist
	Kevin Dorma
	Francis Liu
	Alwin Maben
	Bill Moore
	David Pollard
	Trevor Potter

Gloria Snow  
Deborah Springer

#### **Chinook Winds Regional Council Staff**

Treena Duncan	Executive Minister
Lee Spice	Pastoral Relations Minister
Christopher Mah Poy	Prog. Staff: First Third, Justice Ministry Network
Joel Den Haan	Property / Community of Faith
Shelley Den Haan	Communications/Cluster Support
Geoffrey Simmins	Hospital Ministry
Mauricio Araujo	Assistant: Exec. Minister
Leanne Templeton	Archivist
John Den Hoed	Treasurer
Karen Norrie	Bookkeeper

7. **Barbara Zimmerman** addressed the delegates upon her retirement, ending her 16.5-year career at the Castor United Church. We are thankful for her ministry.

8. **Theme Speaker:** Jeff Chu on Seeding Hope

Treena Duncan introduced Jeff Chu who is a curator of the Evolving Faith podcast and is a candidate for ministry in the Reformed Church in America. He began by acknowledging his treaty relations and then talked about the impact of Covid-19 on our people and all manner of poverty and suffering around the world. He asked us to consider our personal worries and concerns. Then he talked about HOPE in our faith that draws us to meet online in this fashion. He challenged us to finger the seeds of hope in our pockets. He made comparisons between growing plants and the growth of our faith. He asked us what we should place on our denomination's compost pile.

#### **Second Session: 2:00p.m. 9.m. Friday, May 7, 2021**

9. **Lee Spice** talked about her ministry career path in her retirement video. We received her gifts with gratitude and wished her well on her journey.

10. **Business:** David Pollard presented Order Paper Number 1

#### **Order Paper 1: Constituting the Court and Organizing Business**

**M/S David Pollard/Taylor Croissant**

Be it resolved that:

1. The Roll of the 3rd General Meeting of Chinook Winds Regional Council shall consist of those members of Chinook Winds Regional Council who register prior to 12:00 p.m., Friday May 7, 2021. Those arriving after that time shall not be included on the Roll.
2. The Bar of the Council shall be the Zoom™ digital meeting room assigned and shared with registered members.
3. The Business Committee for this General Meeting shall be Mauricio Araujo, Allan Buckingham, Treena Duncan (Executive Secretary), David Pollard (Chair), and Vicki McPhee (Presiding Officer).
4. In order to facilitate the formulation of motions and discussion of matters raised in business, the President may, at their discretion, suspend the ordinary rules of parliamentary debate and engage in a different process. All final decisions of the council shall follow the rules of debate and order as summarized in the Appendix of The Manual (2020) or Bourinot's Rules of Order.
5. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, speakers can be limited to two minutes each.
6. Subject to such changes as the Business Committee might make and announce, the agenda as printed shall be the working basis for the order of business.
7. Proposals directed to the General Meeting must be received by the Business Committee prior to 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 7, 2021. The Business Committee may recommend editing or clarification before the Proposal comes to the floor. Proposals dealing with matters not noted on the agenda shall be dealt with in an order as determined by the Business Committee. Like proposals may be grouped together at the discretion of the Business Committee.
8. All unfinished business, including non-General Council proposals, shall be referred to the Regional Council Executive.
9. Voting shall be carried out by members using the Zoom electronic platform where the online meeting will be hosted. Only eligible voting members logged into the Zoom platform will receive a request to input their vote once a vote has been called by the Presiding Officer. In the case of technical issues during voting, the Presiding Officer can choose to accept votes sent in by email from voting members when submitted under the same email used during registration.
10. All motions having significant budget implications for the Region (\$2,000 or over) shall be considered "in principle only" and, if adopted, be referred to the Region Executive for consideration within adopted budgetary constraints.
11. Corresponding Privileges be granted to Michael Blair, General Secretary.
12. Requests to withdraw from the meeting shall be submitted to, considered, and granted by the business Committee. Members leaving before 5pm on Saturday, May 8 without the consent of the Business Committee shall not be entitled to have travel expenses paid.
13. The minutes of the 2nd General Meeting of The Chinook Winds Regional Council held September 15 –17, 2020 over Zoom, be adopted.
14. The Plenary portions of the Agenda will be recorded within the Zoom™ platform and made available on The Chinook Winds Regional Council website.

15. The Regional Council Executive Minutes are received for information and included as part of as part of the Record of Proceedings. (C.3.1.4)

**MOTION IS CARRIED**

11. **David Pollard** talked about the process for electing commissioners for 44th General Council,

**MOTION #2: Process for electing commissioners for General Council  
M/S David Pollard/Taylor Croissant**

Be it resolved that the following procedure be adopted for electing commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council:

The Presiding Officer or their designate approved by the Regional Council Executive shall be a Commissioner (The Manual, D.1.1 d);

That 10 nominations for Commissioners be received from the Voting Constituency of the Annual Meeting;

In the event that more than 10 nominations are received, voting members of the court will be asked to provide a preferential ranking of the nominees;

This ranking will be referred to the Nominating Committee who along with the Chair of the Business Committee who will ensure that the nominees meet The Manual Requirements found in section D.1.1 e) ii) and iii) ;

If a ranked nominee needs to be moved to create a space to meet The Manual requirements, they will become Alternate Commissioners and

finally, a slate of Commissioners and Alternates will be presented for the court to approve.

**Carried**

12. **Mary Shearer** from Canmore talked about a proposal from the Being Good Relations Network. She had adopted two brothers who were Metis in the 60's scoop. The Alberta government has released an elementary school curriculum which excludes the residential schools and 60's scoops. The curriculum's focus is on American and European historical events and culture, giving no attention to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's findings.

Proposal Name: Perspective on Indigenous Education

That the Chinook Winds Region to inform the Government of Alberta that the new K to 6 Social Studies Curriculum violates the agreement made between Alberta and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of April 14, 2014.

**Taylor Croissant** from Southminster United Church introduced his proposal with Sam Grottenberg to encourage General Council to widen church union. We recessed into breakout rooms to talk about both of these proposals.

Proposal Name: Initiating Dialogue on Church Union

That the General Council initiate an invitation to a new and separate ecumenical dialogue with The Anglican Church of Canada, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and any other suitable denominations to discuss and explore, over a period of ten years, the possibility of full organic church union.

13. Chinook Winds board member, **Kevin Dorma** gave a presentation on **policy governance for the Chinook Winds Region**. He said that the purpose of the Board is to look at long term planning, missional objectives and urgent issues. Paid accountable staff and volunteers perform the work of the Board in the Region. The Board consulted Dan Hotchkiss on the creation of the twelve-page policy for the function of this Region. Kevin invited us to find and read these policies. If there are questions or concerns, they should be directed to: [contact@kevindorma.ca](mailto:contact@kevindorma.ca)
14. Vicki McPhee has heard that there was not enough time for discussion on the two proposals so this motion was made to facilitate further small group discussion:

**MOTION #3: To extend the order of the day**

**M/S David Pollard/ Murray Speer**

Be it resolved that the order of the day be changed to 5 p.m. today.

**MOTION IS CARRIED**

15. **Affirming Region Discussion:** Pam Rocker and Tracy Robertson  
Pam said that the Affirming Connections started in 2015 as an outreach of St. Andrew's Regional Ministry in Calgary. It began with support of individuals who need support in Christian community. She also began to talk to local churches about the process of becoming affirming. PIE day and banning conversion therapy originated in this work.

Tracy is our Chinook Winds Regional Affirming Animator. As she continued on into this work, she found herself even further transformed in her knowledge and understanding. She referred to **Ezra 3:11b-13** about the building of a new temple and the grieving for the old temple. A new future of justice filled work will exist at the same time as a reluctance for change. **1John3:1-3** which describes the love of God for his children with no expectation for the future. God sees all of us with the same love and our transformation will allow us to see the marginalized with the God's eyes.

16. **Message from the General Secretary: Michael Blair** brought us some updates from General Council in context of our present structures and policies. He said that to have hope is always to be a choice like in the women who went to Jesus' tomb and were surprised by resurrection. He showed a video presentation of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie who said that if you want to minimize a people, then you just tell the same story over and over. In our denomination we constantly tell our story of decline and eventual death. He said that we must reframe our narrative by speaking about our belief and mission to transform the lives of individuals by the power of God's love. We need to invite others on our journeys as disciples of Jesus Christ.
17. Return to discussion on two proposals: Time was given to continue discussion on the two proposals in breakout rooms and that we should write comments in the CHAT function which will be considered this evening by the Business Committee.
18. We heard a presentation from **Janice Walls**, who is retiring this year. She played the piano and sang her Amen. We offered blessings upon her as she retires.
19. **John Pentland** led us in the closing for this day. He has attended 32 years of these annual meetings. These days he is "languishing" which describes how we are in Covid-19. It is an "in the middle place". The antidote to languishing is "flow" which means becoming focussed on something, like we felt during Jeff Chu's presentation. The theme of Seeds of Hope invited us to consider many things within gardening metaphors. Our goal is to flourish where we are planted and to truly feel the love of God. The closing song was "Lean on Me" played by the Good Shepherd Collective.

<b>Third Session: 8:59 a.m. May 8, 2021</b>
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20. Vicki McPhee opened this session at 8:59 a.m. with a treaty recognition.
21. Joanne Anquist led us in worship based on **Matthew 13:1-4**. David Pollard gave the message in a gardening metaphor.
22. **Missional Conversation: John Pentland** of Hillhurst United Church, in Calgary, led this conversation. He said that these Covid times have been challenging. He introduced **Nancy Nourse**, from Northminster UC in Calgary; **Trevor Potter** from McKillop UC in Lethbridge, and **Greg Wooley** of Ralph Connor UC in Canmore as the panel. John said that this has been the toughest year of his ministry.



Nancy Nourse said that Northminster is back in the sanctuary for live streaming now. What has changed for her congregation is the online format. She believes that this is a favorable means to reach out to people who would not normally attend a church in person. She believes her church is thriving. They try to offer programming for all ages and have at-home worship kits for those who cannot use a computer.

Trevor Potter said that the technology has been stressful and risky. He said the pandemic has opened up avenues not viewed before. McKillop UC has always said that God is outside the church walls. They are streaming services from a studio and the number of people in attendance has really grown. They have a mask ministry. They have kept up their partnerships in the community with the Lethbridge Senior's Centre where cooking and conversation are central. They have an intentional focus on Senior's ministry.

Greg Wooley stated that an outward looking church continues to seek out partnership. He says that Ralph Connor is a small church in downtown Canmore which would see 65 people at a prepandemic in person worship. They have continued to offer their building for AA meetings. They have twice as many people worshipping with them on the online Sunday service. They have a telephone connection ministry. They held an outdoor service on a ball diamond last summer. They have been intentional in partnering with outside groups e.g., Healing Pathways group that has moved online, another group hosts games night online. Their Wednesday night worship service has been fruitful in attracting people who do not come to Sunday service.

John Pentland observed that even though the church buildings are closed, the community of the church people seems to be thriving.

We moved into small group discussions.

23. **Memorials:** We watched a video uplifting the following friends who passed away in the past year. Gloria Snow led us in prayer for these who we have lost and also for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, accompanied by traditional drumming and song.

<b>Rev. Arnie Chamberlain</b>	<b>January 2021</b>
<b>Rev. Harry Colquhoun</b>	<b>October 2020</b>
<b>Rev. Henry Friesen</b>	<b>September 2020</b>
<b>Rev. Ormand Lavenne</b>	<b>September 2020</b>
<b>Rev. Sherlee McGregor-McCuaig</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
<b>Rev. George Takashima</b>	<b>October 2020</b>
<b>Rev. William Toner</b>	<b>March 2021</b>
<b>Rev. Don Wright</b>	<b>January 2021</b>

24. **Rev. Tom Melvin** talked about his faith journey in ministry and who will be retiring in June. We blessed him on his continued travels into his future.
25. **Affirming Region Discussion:** Keith Murray opened this conversation by describing what an affirming region would look like. (Public Intentional and Explicit) In the ministry of Jesus how was he “public”: his entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. e.g. pride flag in front of church building, offering communion on the street.  
How was Jesus “intentional”: he always kept company with marginal people and told the story of the Good Samaritan. Funding a workshop with recognized affirming teachers.  
Raising the new flag which includes acknowledgement of trans and bipoc people.  
How do we explicitly hold up those who have been marginalized and “othered”? The church intentionally names those who are welcome.

We broke into small groups to discuss this.

Vicki McPhee expressed the court’s appreciation to the members of the Affirming Region Working group for their work.

26. We received a video from **Eva Stanley** on her love of ministry and explaining her faithful career. Vicki McPhee offered blessings on her retirement.

27. Updates:

- A. **Office of Vocation:** Brenda Fawkes said that she has been working for 14 months in Chinook Winds Region and is learning about us. Six months ago, she and her colleagues in the Office of Vocation received a report from the United Church of Christ which revealed that this year, they have the highest number of clergy people wanting to leave the ministry. She is pleased to report that in our region, there are 15 candidates for ministry.
- B. **Mission and Service:** Vicky Nelson is our Region’s M&S animator. She showed a video presentation that encourages donation to the work of M&S.
- C. **St. Andrew’s College:** Richard Manley-Tannis addressed the court by video presentation saying that there are new things happening at the College.
- D. **Right Relations:** Gloria Snow was seen on video with people from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation who expressed their appreciation for monetary gifts received at Christmas from churches in the Chinook Region.

<b>Fourth Session: 2:00 p.m. May 8, 2021</b>
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28. **Debbie Stockdale** addressed the court in her retirement video. Appreciation was expressed for her ministry.

29. Alwin Maben interviewed **Treena Duncan** about her life journey to become our Executive Minister.
30. Business: David Pollard introduced the following motions:

**MOTION #4: Perspective on Indigenous Curriculum****M/S Mary Shearer/ Alwin Maben**

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council informs the Government of Alberta that the new K to 6 Curriculum in the Social Studies area of Indigenous Education, does not fulfill the 2016 agreement of the Joint Commitment to Action signed by the Alberta government, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and Alberta Education Stake holders. We also invite Communities of Faith and individuals in the Chinook Winds Region to do the same.

**Carried****MOTION #5: Initiating Dialogue on Church Union****M/S Taylor Croissant/ Samuel Grottenberg**

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council recommends with concurrence, to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council, that they initiate an invitation to a new and separate ecumenical dialogue of a committed, long-term nature with the Anglican Church of Canada, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and any other suitable denominations to prayerfully discuss the possibility of organic church union, but with the openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit, who might prompt us towards other forms of greater partnership.

**Carried****MOTION #6: 44<sup>th</sup> General Council Commissioners from Chinook Winds Region.****M/S David Pollard/ Trevor Potter**

Be it resolved that the following persons be the Chinook Winds Regional Council Commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council:

Lay:

Vivian Williamson  
Susan Brodrick (alternate)  
Abby Werenka  
Francis Liu  
Kathryn Yamashita

Ordered:

Taylor Croissant  
Samuel Grottenberg  
Esther Crews  
Tammy Allan  
Murray Speer

**Carried**

**MOTION #7: Acceptance of the Report of the Nomination Committee**

**M/S Tammy Allan/ Susan Brodrick**

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council accepts the report of the Nomination Committee as follows:

Executive Committee: Anne Yates-Laberge  
Kathryn Yamashita

**Carried**

**MOTION #8: Acceptance of reports in the Agenda and Report Book**

**M/S David Pollard/Esther Crews**

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional Council accepts the reports found in the Agenda and Report Book 2021 with thanks.

**Carried**

- There was concern that the report from St. Andrew's College is not in the Report Book. Vicki McPhee said that it will be distributed by Newsletter if it was missed.

**MOTION #9: Appreciation to the Executive Minister and Staff of Chinook Winds Region**

**M/S David Pollard/ Penny Drysdale**

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Regional extends its deep and profound gratitude to the Executive Minister and Staff and Chinook Winds Region for their excellent work on behalf of the Region during this unprecedented time.

**Carried**

- Vicki McPhee expressed gratitude for Eric Paget and Alwin Maben who are stepping down from the Executive.

31. **Theme: Seeding Hope – Jeff Chu** was introduced by Treena Duncan. Jeff talked about taking risk to seed hope. We have chosen love, a journey which makes us vulnerable but we are not the only ones who walk this path. He read about love from a book written by Rachel Held Evans who died in 2019 at 37 years of age. Every single one of us wants to

feel loved specifically by our God. He spoke about five spiritual disciplines to bring us closer to that love.

1.If the seed of hope is to take root, then we need to feel loved. **Spiritual music** is different for everybody but we should have access to this music to reorient our minds.

2.The second spiritual discipline is to **spend time in scripture**. What if we see scripture as a conversation with a friend to accompany us on our journey?

3.The third spiritual discipline is a writing exercise which is meant to prompt attentiveness. **List the fruits of the spirit:** love, peace, joy, gentleness, self-control etc. and where you have seen these fruits in your day. This discipline is meant to remind you of God's love.

4.The fourth spiritual discipline is to **ponder architecture**. Space matters in providing comfort. A candle, poster, picture, special chair... these things matter to our sense of hope and possibility.

5.Sabbath is the **discipline of rest**. His professor asked us to think of something that distracts us and to spend 6 hours without it. For example, a cellphone is a common distraction. We do not need to earn rest. Sabbath is an expression of God's loving grace.

He asked us to honestly write down what we are afraid of and then who do we hope to be in the world.

His benediction was a song for those who doubt their mission, by John Lucas, called Time.

Jeff can be reached at *PO Box 68565, Grand Rapids, MI 49516*      [jeff@byjeffchu.com](mailto:jeff@byjeffchu.com)

32. Vicki McPhee offered the appreciation of the court to:

Kathy Yamashita for taking the minutes.

David Pollard for his work on the Business Committee

Anne Yates-Laberge, Joanne Anquist and Deborah Springer for bringing us the times of worship.

Allan Buckingham for all of the IT expertise

Tammy Allan for the work of the Nominations Committee

To all the presenters and facilitators with their guidance on what further work is needed.

To the Chinook Winds Regional Staff for pulling this General Meeting together.

To the delegates who have attended this meeting and who will go back to share the work of the region with their Communities of Faith. A special appreciation of the new regional representatives.

To our General Council representative, Rev. Michel Blair for his words of encouragement.

Treana Duncan expressed her appreciation of Vicki McPhee's graceful leadership in chairing this meeting at the beginning of her sabbatical.

33. Closing Worship again addressed the scripture passage from Matthew on the parable of the Seed and Sower. Amy Haynes gave the message, talking about leaving fields fallow for regeneration. She closed with a poem by Howard Thurber "I need thee God". John Pentland said that his spirits have been raised by this Regional Gathering. He gave a theological reflection on today's events where we have been reminded that we are loved by God and that we matter. We give thanks that we can be the soil that can transform the world. He left us with a benediction.

34. Vicki McPhee

MOTION #10: Authority to the Executive

M/S David Pollard/MiYeon Kim

Be it resolved that the Chinook Winds Region confers the powers of the court, both regular and emergent, rest with the Executive Committee until the next Regional Gathering.

**Carried**

35. Adjournment was declared at 5:00 p.m.

**Fifth Session: 10:30 a.m. May 9**

**Regional Worship Service and Communion: Preacher: Jeff Chu.**

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## SIGNATURE PAGE

### CHINOOK WINDS REGIONAL COUNCIL



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Rev. Vicki McPhee, Presiding Officer

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Rev. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister