

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE 44th GENERAL COUNCIL

draft MINUTES

Saturday, October 19, 2024

The annual meeting of the 44th General Council of The United Church of Canada was convened on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 11 a.m. and concluded at 4:30 p.m. (Eastern). The meeting was held by video / teleconference. The Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr Carmen Lansdowne, presided.

Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Agnes Spence, Albert Fowler, Alcris Limongi, Alex Jebson, Alwin Maben, Amy Kaler, Anna Stewart, Arlyce Schiebout, Audrey Lounder, Barbara Cairns, Barbara Lloyd, Beth Johnston, Bill Pollock, Brenda Andrews, Bruce West, Catherine Glover, Catherine Hamilton, Catherine Stewart-Savage, Cheryl Bear, Chris Fickling, Cyndi Price, Cynthia Burt, D Kofi Akoussah, Daniel MacDonald, Darrell Reine, David Leyton-Brown, David Patterson, Dawn Blanchard, Deborah Laforet, Diane Dwarka, Diane Thurlow, Donald Anderson, Donald McLean, Edna (Hedy) Baker-Graf, Eileen Antone, Elizabeth Brown, Elizabeth Stevenson, Erin McIntyre, Ernest Njiemoun, Evelyn Day, Fay Smith, Francis Liu, Franklyn James, G. Caslick, Gabrielle Heidinger Baerg, Hazel Ward-Moreau, Heather Sandilands, Heather Stevenson, Helen Reed, Hope Mattus, Hugh Ellis, Isaac Kamta, Jack Spencer, Jane McDonald, Janelle Shaw, Janet Root, Janet Sollows, Jeannette Schieck, Jennifer Irving, Jingle Ayupan, Joanne Anquist, John Hurst, Joseph Kyser, Joyce Fergus-Moore, Joyce Johnston, Joyce Payne, Judith Zarubick, Junior Smith, Kaitlyn Ostrander, Katherine Brittain, Kathleen Anderson, Kathleen Whyte, Kathryn Yamashita, Keith Simmonds, Ken McEvoy, Kenji Marui, Kenneth E. DeLisle, Keri Wehlander, Kevin Cox, Kit Loewen, L. E. Moir, Laura Hutchison, Laurie O'Leary, Lawrence Nyarko, Lawrence Roche, Lesley Harrison, Linda Scherzinger, Lloyd Henderson, M Chorney, Malcolm Macleod, Marc Grenon, Marie-Claude Manga, Marilyn Zehr, Mary Annan, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Mary-Jo Tracy, Michael Blair, Miriam Bowlby, Mitchell Anderson, Nancy Nourse, Nicole Beaudry, Norman Robert Boie, Oakley Hart, Olav Kitchen, Oliver Dingwell, Pamela Wilcox, Paul Douglas Walfall, Paula Gale, Penny Nelson, Peter Chynoweth, Peter Haddow, Randy Breckenridge, Rebekah Duncan, Robert Hayes, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Samuel Grottenberg, Sharon Lohnes, Sheila Ivanochko, Shirley Cleave, Simbarashe Mazhara, Simon Muwowo, Stephen Coles, Steve Lowden, Sun-Do Hyun, Susan Brodrick, Susan Hutton, Susan Siczkar, T. Murray Speer, Tabitha Carey, Taeil Yang, Tami Spires, Taylor Croissant, Ted Meyers, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Tom Smart, Trina Hodgson, Wanalda Parsons, Wendy Lowden, Wendy Noble, Wilson Gonese, Yvonne Terry, Yvonne Wright

Regrets Received:

Maxwell Griffin, Hannah Kim-Cragg, Ryan McNally, Jessica McCrae, Carol Munro, Penny Nelson, Lynella Reid-James, Darrel Reine, Jo Ann Silcox, Erica Wittevrongel

Corresponding:

Adele Halliday, Alan Hall, Aliesha Desjarlais, Amy Crawford, Eric Hébert-Daly, Faith March-MacCuish, Graham Brownmiller, Harry Li, Horacio Mesones, Japhet Ndhlovu, Jennifer Henry, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Kangwa Mabuluki, Marion Best, Marion Pardy, Mark Laird, Marlene Britton, Nicole Treksler, Peter Hartmans, Samer Laham, Sara Stratton, Sarah Charters, Shannon McCarthy, Shirley Welch, Springwater Hester-Meawassige, Steven Johann, Torrin Maag, Treena Duncan, Wendy Gichuru, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Worship

The meeting began with a time of worship conducted by Rev. Graham Brownmiller, General Council 44 Worship Coordinator. Rev. Brownmiller invited those present to be grounded in the question *Who do you say I am?* There was a scripture reading from Mark 8:27-30. Rev. Brownmiller and Moderator, Rt. Rev Dr. Carmen Lansdowne led communion, which was celebrated by Commissioners and corresponding members remotely from where they were gathered.

Welcome

The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the process for speakers to be acknowledged, and explained how voting would occur during the meeting. She also noted simultaneous language interpretation in English and French would be available.

Constituting the Meeting

The Moderator constituted the meeting: “Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, seul chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le quarante-quatrième Conseil général, I hereby declare this meeting of the General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God.”

Territory Acknowledgement

The Moderator noted that she and the General Secretary were situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, the Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississauga of the Credit River. The Moderator then invited those gathered to name the territory from which they were joining the meeting.

Equity Reminders

The equity reminder questions were shared in French as well as English:

- Am I responding with my bias(es)?
- Just because we've always done it this way, should we continue?
- Who is missing around our table in this discussion? (Do we need to consult wider?)
- Whose voices haven't been heard? Have I spoken too much?
- Am I using correct pronouns for colleagues?
- Am I making assumptions based on race, sexual orientation, gender, to name a few?

Partner Greeting (Appendix I)

Horacio Mesones, Centro Regional Ecu­mé­ni­co de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS -Argentina), brought greetings from The United Church of Canada Partner Council. He brought words of encouragement and remarked on The United Church of Canada's dedication to building and sustaining global partnerships.

The Moderator thanked Horacio for his greetings on behalf of the Partner Council and expressed gratitude for the partnership between the Council and the United Church of Canada.

GS 22 Opening Procedural Motion

The Moderator invited Michael Blair, General Secretary, to introduce the opening procedural motion. The General Secretary noted that there were sufficient Commissioners present to constitute quorum. He then briefly outlined the contents of the opening motion.

Motion: Michael Blair/ Samuel Vauvert Dansokho

GC44 2024-053

Bounds of Council

That the bounds of the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024 be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.

Corresponding Members

That the following persons who are in attendance be corresponding members of the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024, and as such, be entitled to speak but not to move motions or to vote:

- former Moderators of The United Church of Canada;
- global partners, Youth Forum participants, and members of the Facilitation Group from GC44, 2022;
- General Council Officers, Executive Ministers, Executive Officers, and Regional Council Executive Ministers;
- members of the General Council Executive who are not Commissioners;
- the most recent members of the National Indigenous Council and National Indigenous Elders Council who are not Commissioners;
- Commissioners from GC43 who have since become staff members of the General Council Office or a region; and
- those who have been requested by the General Secretary, General Council to serve as resource persons to the Council.

Business Table Membership

That the Business Table for the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024 be:

- Carmen Lansdowne – Moderator
- Michael Blair – General Secretary
- Kit Loewen – General Council Executive, Business Planning Committee
- Allan Buckingham – General Council 43 and 44 Business Coordinator
- Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa – General Council Governance Lead

Approved motion GC45 2025-002

- Nicole Treksler – Legal/Judicial Counsel
- Torrin Maag – Equity Monitor

Facilitation Group

That the Facilitation Group for the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024 be the members of the business table named above.

Equity Support Team

That the following persons serve as the Equity Team for this Meeting: Torrin Maag and Steve Johann.

Minute Secretary

That the Minute Secretary for the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024 be Tyler Lodge.

Business before the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024

That the reports and proposals provided in the Workbook (online and including additions and updates) be received for consideration by the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024.

Agenda

That the 44th General Council annual meeting 2024 accept as its agenda, the agenda as circulated.

New Business

All notices of new business will be presented in writing to the Business Committee, for consideration. New business that cannot be dealt with within the time limitations of the meeting will be referred to the General Council Executive for consideration and action.

Business Procedures

The Moderator will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Moderator will apply the Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making (*The Manual Appendix*). Bourinot's Rules of Order will be used as the authority should a question arise which is not answered by the Appendix.

Speakers will:

- indicate their intention to speak as per instructions provided at the meeting
- be recognized by the Moderator prior to speaking
- begin comments by identifying themselves by name, role, and Regional Council (or position as appropriate)
- only speak once to a given proposal except at the discretion of the Moderator
- each new speaker should offer a new perspective or information
- keep comments brief except at the discretion of the Moderator;

Procedure for Withdrawing Proposals from the Consent Motion:

The 44th General Council annual meeting 2024 will adopt the following procedure in the event that a Commissioner desires that a proposal be withdrawn from the consent motion:

Approved motion GC45 2025-002

1. The Commissioner making such a request will have one minute to make their request and provide their rationale for their request.
2. The request will be granted only if a majority of Commissioners vote in favour of it.
3. If an item of business is removed from the consent proposal the business table will determine time on the agenda; if time does not allow, it will be forwarded to the General Council Executive as unfinished business for decision.

Carried

GS 23 Consent Motion (*Appendix II*)

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce the consent motion. The General Secretary noted that the minutes from previous General Council meetings could be found online on the United Church Commons. Consent docket material is found in *Appendix I* included with these minutes.

There was an opportunity to ask questions or withdraw any item from the consent agenda.

Motion: Michael Blair/ Oliver Dingwell

GC44 2024-054

That the 44th General Council, 2024:

1. Approve the minutes of the online annual meeting of the 44th General Council, October 2023.
2. Receive and accept the following:
 - General Secretary's Accountability Report
 - General Council Executive Report
 - Audit Committee Report, 2023
 - Strategic Plan Update
 - Theology and Inter-Church, Inter-Faith Committee Report
 - Anti-Racism Action Plan Update
 - Reconciliation Report
 - National Indigenous Council Update
 - Interim Report on the Use of the Principle Based Approach to The United Church of Canada's Justice Work
 - Video Report from United Property Resource Corporation
3. Approve the following proposals and ensure that action is taken as outlined:
 - AUD 03 Audit Committee Recommendations
 - GS 24 Affirm Existing Assessment Funding Rates and Principles for 2025
 - NOM 04 Recommendations for Appointment
4. Receive *NEW05 Indigenous Sovereignty* without prejudice to the General Secretary.

Carried

Approved motion GC45 2025-002

Introduction of Elder

The Moderator introduced the honoured Elder for this meeting, Evelyn Day. Evelyn offered a prayer to open the meeting. The Moderator thanked Evelyn for her prayer.

Table Group Time

The Moderator introduced Table Group Time to connect with one another. Members of the General Council were invited to connect over the theme of General Council 44—*Who Do you say I am?* Members were invited to discuss who the Jesus is that is showing up for them, and how is the theme of General Council 44 showing up in their context?

GS 25 ENACTING REMIT 1 AUTHORIZED BY THE 44TH GENERAL COUNCIL 2023-24 (Appendix III)

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce the proposal. The General Secretary gave some background information on the proposal. He noted the process took place between 2022 through 2024, and some educational resources went out to Regional Councils. The enactment of the Remit allows for changes to be made in the Basis of Union, and the edition of *The Manual* will read the changes of the Remit being passed.

There was an opportunity for discussion and questions.

Motion: Arlyce Schiebout/ Kaitlyn Ostrander**GC44 2024-055**

That the 44th General Council (2022) at its 2024 Annual Meeting enact the following Remit authorized by the 44th General Council 2022, which has been approved by the National Indigenous Council, as well as a majority of regional councils and pastoral charges:

Remit#1: The Establishment of an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.

Carried

The Moderator took a moment to acknowledge the work done by the United Church. She thanked the regional councils, and all involved in participating in the Remit.

GCE 09 CHANGE TO BASIS OF UNION: IV. REGIONAL COUNCILS; SECTION 6.2 (Appendix IV)

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce GCE 09 Change To Basis Of Union: IV. Regional Councils; Section 6.2. The General Secretary gave some background on the Remit. As the General Secretary was in conversation with Regional Councils, the items pertaining to this Remit needed to change, as there was some conflict in the Basis of Union, the by-laws in the Manual, and practices within some of the Regions. As we want Regional Councils to provide the opportunity to retired Designated Lay Ministers to be members of Regional Councils, the Basis of Union has to expand to allow for this.

There was time for discussion and questions.

Approved motion GC45 2025-002

Motion: Keri Wehlander/ Olav Kitchen**GC44 2024-056**

That the 44th General Council (2022) at its 2024 Annual Meeting authorizes a Category 2 Remit to make the following changes to Section 6 of the Basis of Union:

6.2.3 lay members elected by the Community of Faith ~~respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible.~~

6.2.4 additional lay members elected by the Regional Council ~~to reflect diversity;~~ the total number not to exceed 10 percent of the number of lay members elected under section 6.2.3.

After considerable discussion the proposal was withdrawn for further work in light of questions and comments raised. A motion to refer was brought forward.

Motion to refer: Jane McDonald/ Murray Speer**GC44 2024-057**

Motion to refer GCE 09 Authorizing a Level 2 Remit: Change to Basis of Union: IV. Regional Councils; Section 6.2 to the General Council Executive for further work.

Carried

Then Let Us Sing

The General Secretary introduced Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith, *Program Coordinator Worship and Spirituality*, to introduce the new hymn resource *Then Let Us Sing*. Over the past four years, a team of volunteers across the church have been working on this project. The hymn resource is an all-digital format, with approximately 150 new hymns, and is in partnership with GIA and Hope Publishing. The new songs diversify the current collection, are accessible, supplement the current canon, and prioritize music from under-resourced communities. Alydia closed with a way to get in touch, contribute, and a request for prayer as they continue their work.

There was a time for questions and comments, and the Moderator thanked Alydia for all their hard work on this resource.

GCE 10 AUTHORIZING ACTION FOR A PRINCIPLE-BASED APPROACH TO JUSTICE WORK IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA WITH REGARDS TO PALESTINE - ISRAEL (Appendix V)

A learning session regarding this proposal had been held two weeks prior to the meeting.

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to give a history on the process. The General Secretary remarked that the United Church had been living out of a policy-based approach in its justice work, and that this limited engagement as situations changed. The task-group suggested that the United Church move to a principle-based approach regarding justice work, including justice work in Palestine and Israel. In addition to this, there was a proposal from the Executive of the General Council, that we work on developing principles, and use these principles as we engage in our work.

The General Council meeting in 2022 authorized that we develop principles to guide and govern justice work that we could apply to our justice work in Palestine and Israel and elsewhere. In 2023 Theology and Inter-Church, Interfaith, assigned to do this work, came to the annual meeting with a number of principles. This General Council approved those principles and authorized that we would use these principles over the year. Any refinement of the principles, would be brought forward at General Council 45 for final approval.

As the United Church has been engaging with the principles, we are realizing the need for clarity. The proposal before the council is a way to get to this clarity.

The General Secretary invited Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister Theology and Ministry Leadership, to include any additional information or framing for the proposal. Jennifer reminded the council of the key framing principles around decolonization and truth-telling, as well as prophetic and costly solidarity. She reflected on highlighting the voices of those who are suffering, and that the seven named principles are interdependent and interconnected.

There was an opportunity questions and considerable discussion.

Motion: Peter Haddow/ Samuel Vauvert Dansokho

GC44 2024-058

That the 44th General Council, 2024:

- a. affirm that the application of the principles allows for the adoption of the strategies of Boycott, Divestment and Sanction(BDS) Movement and the ability to respond positively to the request of *NEW04 - Join the Apartheid Free Communities Movement*, joining the consensus of the international human rights community in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures towards the Palestinian people and refer proposals *GCE04 Just Peace in Palestine and Israel*, *CS01 Just Peace in Palestine and Israel*, *SW09 Justice and Peace for Palestine and Israel*, *FSL01 Responding to Our Global Partner Kairos Palestine*, *PM02 A Living Commitment to Kairos Palestine*, *RC1501 Responding to our Global Partner Kairos Palestine*, *SW02 Raising our Voice for Human Rights*, and *NEW 04 Join in the Apartheid Free Communities Movement* to the General Secretary as part of the process to guide the church's response; and
- b. direct the General Secretary to continue to report to the Executive of General Council on the advocacy work related to Palestine and Israel and how the principles were applied, and to provide any learnings to the Theology Inter-Church Interfaith Committee

There was a friendly amendment to the motion as *NEW 04 Join in the Apartheid Free Communities Movement* was added to the list of proposals in point a).

Carried

The Moderator invited Rev. Graham Brownmiller to pray for the council after the motion passed. Rev. Brownmiller offered a prayer of blessing over each person who had been a part of these conversations, and gave thanks for the staff and the elected members who have done the

Approved motion GC45 2025-002

work getting to this point in the of the United Church's history. The Moderator then gave thanks to Jennifer Janzen-Ball and all on the Theology Inter-church Interfaith committee.

Break

The Moderator then introduced a break into the meeting.

Questions and Answers Regarding Reports

After the break, the video report of The United Resource Property Corporation was shown highlighting how the UPRC brings professional real estate expertise to communities of faith, providing them with information they need to make faithful decisions about their properties so they can maximize benefits for the common good.

The Moderator thanked UPRC for the video, and the work that they do. The General Secretary invited the authors of the various reports to answer any questions regarding the written reports in the consent docket.

The Moderator invited Dr. Sara Stratton to start the conversation with the work on *Bringing the Children Home*. Sara noted the work is community driven, relational, and we wait for the communities to respond to our invitation. There is a lot of work being done in the archives of the United Church as information requests about residential schools come in from communities. There is also work being done as they liaise with the interlocutor on unmarked burial sites.

Jennifer Janzen-Ball spoke to a question about how churches use their space as they work with other faith groups; as churches are looking to be hospitable and make ends meet. She noted the ethical framework would be helpful as churches work through that process. Jennifer Henry also spoke to this question as it highlights the strategic plan. Growth animators have many conversations around property resourcing, and she noted some resources will be on ChurchX, the United Church's e:learning platform, within the coming months.

There was a question around how we define growth and success in the United Church as it relates to the strategic plan. Jennifer Henry spoke to using not only quantitative but also qualitative results. There is a learning curve in how we measure this, but the strategic plan not only includes numbers, but also narrative, and stories.

The General Secretary expressed his deep appreciation for his colleagues and the work that they do.

NEW 05 Indigenous Sovereignty

The Moderator invited Alan Buckingham, Chair of the Business Committee for General Council 44, to introduce the proposal.

Approved motion GC45 2025-002

Alan gave background on the proposal, and noted some reasons for the recommendation being made by the Business Committee. He noted that after reviewing *The Manual*, it is the understanding of the Business Committee that the issues raised in the proposal fall under the Executive of the General Council directly, and not the Executive by way of the General Council. The business committee recommends that NEW05 be referred the Executive of the General Council.

There was opportunity for questions and discussion.

Heather Sandilands asked when the next General Council Executive meeting would be, and if it would be soon enough to act on NEW05. The General Secretary noted it was November 21-24, 2024. If this is the direction the Council chooses to go in, there is an opportunity to hold a special meeting with the Executive ahead the November meetings.

Teresa Burnett-Cole raised a concern about the voice of the Indigenous Church, not present in the Executive of the General Council. And Grandmother Eileen Antone agreed that this proposal going to the Executive feels like information is being suppressed.

The Moderator stated that, as an Indigenous member of the Business Committee, the intention is not to be dishonest. However, given what was outlined in the National Indigenous Council report, and some of the challenges around leadership in the Council, the attempts to meet as a Council, resulted in not having quorum to make decisions.

The Moderator noted the intent to pull together a National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering, and that this gathering would be the appropriate place to make the decision on the next steps of the National Indigenous Council. She spoke to our ethical framework, and that out of an abundance of care and respect, not all the background information can be shared with the General Council, and a smaller body can do the important learning before a discussion can be had.

Janet Root commented that the letter received to dissolve the National Indigenous Council was taken as dismissive. She questioned if anything has changed with the United Church and Indigenous people, and that the wishes of communities of faith and Indigenous circles have been disregarded during the process, and therefore questioned the decision that was made to dissolve the National Indigenous Council.

The Moderator noted, one of the contributing factors was that the National Indigenous Council was unable to keep quorum and also had no leadership. She remarked that the tone of the letter was not meant to be dismissive or patronizing, but rather meant to uplift the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering as the body who had the authority to discern a way forward. The desire to pull that body together, came from an unplanned budget item and the General

Secretary made the decision that putting the resources into this meeting to determine a way forward was the most important thing to do.

Janet Root mentioned that in the absence of the Executive Minister, they were willing to wait. Eileen Antone remarked that it felt like the autonomy of the National Indigenous Council was taken away, and Elder Evelyn Day noted that trust has been broken.

The Moderator proposed a five-minute recess for the business committee to regroup.

After the recess the Moderator recognized Paul Douglas Walfall for a point of order. Paul noted if the matter is to go to the Executive, then to move the matter to the Executive, without further discussion.

Motion to Refer: Dave Patterson/ Yvonne Wright

GC44-2024-059

That the proposal NEW 05 Indigenous Sovereignty be referred to the Executive of the General Council, with a request that the Executive review and analyze the concerns raised in the proposal, and report its findings to the Commissioners and members of the Indigenous Church at / by General Council 45 in June 2025.

Carried

The Moderator allowed a point of personal privilege to Cheryl Bear-Barnetson. Cheryl noted that she has hope for the future, and thanked the council for the good discussion. Their hope for the future is that the United Church continues to move in a good way for Indigenous people, leadership, and voices.

The Moderator recognized Murray Speer for a point of order. Speer would like to ensure that the comments of the indigenous commissioners form the part of the background of the process at the General Council Executive.

Before moving to the next part of the meeting, the Moderator invited Rev. Graham Brownmiller to pray. Rev. Brownmiller acknowledged God's presence in all conversations of the United Church, and thanked God for being present in the conversation, and for the truth spoken. He offered the places of brokenness, the joy of community, and tensions to God.

Mission and Service

The General Secretary invited Sarah Charters, Executive Minister of Philanthropy, and President of The United Church of Canada Foundation, responsible for raising funds for the ministry we do together to speak about Mission and Service.

Sarah Charters expressed her appreciation for the Moderator and General Secretary's leadership and gifts. She remarked that Mission and Service is broad, in Canada, and around the world, with many partners and programs. Sarah highlighted that the stories of Mission and

Services can all be found on the website www.united-church.ca. She then shared a video which described one example of how the Mission and Service gifts are used.

As Sarah Charters concluded her time with the General Council, she offered thanks for all the ways the participants support Mission and Service. The Moderator thanked Sarah Charters for the work Mission and Service does.

Time with the Moderator

The Moderator turned the chair over to the Former Moderator, The Very Rev. Marion Pardy, while she provided a verbal update. Marion thanked the Moderator, introduced herself, and invited the Moderator share.

The Moderator wanted to maximize time for conversation and invited questions from the floor about her written report. There was discussion about where the Moderator sees hope in The United Church of Canada. She reflected on the strategic priority to invigorate leadership, and her interactions with the ministry development and growth team have been very positive and she has a lot of hope for the future. There were thanks from the floor given on how visible the Moderator has been in her term, attending events, and travelling all over the country. And the Moderator responded in gratitude for the affirmation given to her.

Former Moderator Marion Pardy offered a prayer for the Moderator and her continuing work. The Moderator resumed the chair.

As the Moderator's Report was not included in the consent agenda, there was a motion to receive the Moderator's report.

Motion: Cheryl Bear-Barnetson/ Darryl Reine

GC44 2024-060

That the General Council accept the Moderator's Report.

Carried

Extend the Order of the Day

There was a motion from the General Secretary to extend the order of the day.

Motion: Keith Simmonds/ Arlyce Shiebout

GC44 2024-061

That the 44th General Council agree to extend the order of the day until 4:30 pm (Eastern).

Carried

Covenanting Time

There was a covenanting time with Rev. Alcris Limongi and Rev. Katherine Brittain.

Elder Reflection

Elder Evelyn Day offered a closing prayer.

Report from Equity Team

On behalf of the Equity Team, the General Secretary reminded the council of our equity aspirations. He noted that an evaluation survey would be sent to commissioners within the coming weeks to reflect on this gathering.

Point of Order

Let it be noted for the for the minutes that Teresa Burnett Cole brought forward the matter of the National Indigenous Church to the General Council Executive meeting in September of 2024.

GS 26 CLOSING MOTION (*Appendix VII*)

Motion: Bob Hayes/ Yvonne Terry

GC44 2024-062

That the 44th General Council agrees

Unfinished Business

That any unfinished business from the meeting of the 44th General Council, October 19, 2024, be referred to the Executive of the General Council for consideration and action.

Minutes

That the General Secretary be authorized to publish the minutes in such format(s) as deemed appropriate by the General Secretary for the communication of the actions of the 44th General Council, October 2024 throughout the church.

Adjournment

That the meeting of the 44th General Council, October 2024 be adjourned.

Carried

Thanks

The Moderator thanked honoured Elder, Evelyn Day, the Equity Team, staff, and elected members who had provided assistance during and prior to the meeting. She expressed special thanks to the Commissioners for their work and their engagement with the work.

Closing

Graham Brownmiller closed the meeting with the benediction, calling us to be bold, brave, and blessed.

Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne

General Secretary, Michael Blair