

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, June 9, 2025

The 44th Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada met on Monday, June 9, 2025. Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne, presided.

Attendance

Voting Members: Mitchell Anderson, Michael Blair, Richard Bott, Katherine Brittain, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Michael Caveney, M Chorney, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Catherine Glover, Carmen Lansdowne, David Leyton-Brown, Kit Loewen, Jane McDonald, Arlyce Schiebout, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Paul Douglas Walfall

Corresponding: Kimberly Roy, Leeann Shimoda

Resource: Diane Bosman, Sarah Charters, Alan Hall, Jennifer Henry, Springwater Hester-Meawassige, Jennifer-Janzen Ball, Harry Li, Lori-Ann Livingston, Tyler Lodge, Carol Owegi, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Regrets: Wilson Gonese, Adele Halliday

Monday, June 9, 2025

Welcome

The Moderator and General Secretary, Michael Blair, welcomed those gathered for this meeting of the Executive.

Opening Prayer and Territory Acknowledgement.

The Moderator opened in prayer and shared a territory acknowledgement from her context and invited those present to indicate in the chat the lands on which they were situated for this meeting.

Constituting the Meeting

The Moderator constituted the meeting in French and English.

"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 Executive of the General Council to be in session for the work that may properly be brought before it, to the glory of God."

NOM 17 Recommendations for Appointment

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce Diane Bosman to present NOM 17 Recommendations for Appointment. Diane Bosman, Program Coordinator, Member

Approved Motion 2025-09-25-006

Engagement, spoke to the background of the proposal before the Executive voted. There was time for questions and comments.

Motion: Michael Blair/ Richard Bott

2025-06-09-193

The Nominations Committee recommends the Executive appoint the following members with terms as noted:

Academic Awards and Scholarships Committee (December 2028)

- Catherine Faith MacLean, Ordained Minister, Northern Spirit, *second term*

Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Member Council (June 2028)

- Jan McIntyre, Lay Person, Prairie to Pine, *second term*

Finance Advisory Committee (August 2028)

- Shawn Bausch, Lay Person, Horseshoe Falls, *second term*
- Rob Stapleford, Lay Person, Horseshoe Falls, *second term*

Transitional appointments and extensions (August 2026)

- Jane McDonald, Lay Person, Bermuda-Nova Scotia, *one year appointment*
- Cathy Rushton, Lay Person, East Central Ontario, *one year extension*
- Randy Manikle, Lay Person, Pacific Mountain, *one year extension*

Pension Plan Advisory Committee

With the joint recommendation of the Pension Board

- Ingrid Chingcuanco, Lay Person, *first term* (May 2025 – May 2028)
- Stephen James, Lay Person, *first term* (2026 – January 2029)

Carried

GS 149 Audited Financial Statements 2024

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce GS 149 Audited Financial Statements 2024. The General Secretary invited Harry Li, Executive Office, Finance, to give background to the proposal before the Executive voted.

There was time for questions and comments.

Motion: Michael Blair/ Jane McDonald

2025-06-09-194

The General Secretary recommends that

The Executive of the General Council approve the 2024 audited financial statements of the National Accounts of The United Church of Canada, which include KAIROS results.

Carried

GS 150 INCREASE ASSESSMENT FUNDING RATE FOR 2026 - 2028

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to introduce GS 150 Increase Assessment Funding Rate for 2026 - 2028. The General Secretary again invited Harry Li to give background to the proposal before the Executive voted.

There was time for questions and comments.

Motion: General Secretary/ Mitchell Anderson

2025-06-09-195

The General Secretary recommends that

The Executive of the General Council endorse the following key rates and principles and recommend to the 45th General Council that:

- a)** The assessment rate be increased by 0.5% annually over the next triennial budget cycle, starting from the current rate of 4.5%, as follows:
 - i. 5.0% of adjusted revenues in 2026
 - ii. 5.5% of adjusted revenues in 2027
 - iii. 6.0% of adjusted revenues in 2028
- b)** The investment related portion of assessment be adjusted as follows:
 - i. 0.25% of adjusted revenues in 2026
 - ii. 0.30% of adjusted revenues in 2027
 - iii. 0.35% of adjusted revenues in 2028

The investment related portion of assessment would be calculated based on invested assets as reported in annual statistics and CRA filings. This rate cannot be changed without the express authorization of the General Council. The first \$100,000 of reported investments would be excluded from the calculation to provide for smaller pastoral charges that might still be invested in GICs.

- c)** Reaffirm the equal sharing of the regional council allocation of assessment revenues (1/16 per regional council).
- d)** For church closures and amalgamations, assessment amounts would be calculated and payable for full calendar years based on when a pastoral charge requests revocation of charitable status, or when a newly amalgamated entity has approved a first budget.
- e)** And further, that the 45th General Council authorize the General Council Executive to make such administrative adjustments to the new funding model from time to time as the General Council Executive considers necessary for greater clarity and efficiency in implementation, provided that any such adjustments are in keeping with the principles approved by the United Church in Remit #4 enacted by the 43rd General Council 2018.

Further, the Executive of the General Council

1. direct the General Secretary
 - i. to work with the regional councils to develop and communicate a plan to collect unpaid assessments,
 - ii. To monitor and report to the Executive any adverse impacts of the increased rate to the assessment
2. extend the mandate of the Structural Change Evaluation Steering Group to explore opportunities for a more cost-effective General Council governance system.

Carried

Let it be noted for the minutes that Paul Douglas Walfall opposed the motion.

Update on the General Council Executive Accountability Report

Kathleen Loewen, Governance Committee Chair, gave a brief update to the Executive on the Report going to General Council. Paul raised the point that it was decided that the Executive should have a chance to see it before it goes to General Council.

Point of Personal Privilege

Paul Douglas Walfall raised a point of personal privilege. Paul remarked that at the meeting of the Executive in March, he felt browbeaten into submission by senior staff, and noted there needed to be a way to go forward.

Motion: Michael Blair/ Katherine Brittain

2025-06-09-196

That the General Council Executive authorize its Sub-Executive to deal with the business placed before it by this meeting of the Executive and any emergent business that may arise prior to the next meeting of the General Council.

Carried

Closing

In closing, the Moderator recognized and thanked the Executive for their hard work, and the respectful ways they engaged with material and one another. The Moderator then closed the meeting in prayer.

Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne

General Secretary, Michael Blair