

Pacific Mountain Region Council Annual General Meeting

1 June-4 June 2023.

Theme: Refining Fire. Living Stones

It was a hybrid meeting with the physical meeting happening at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford and the online portion using Whova and Zoom. I attended via Whova. This report is what transpired.

Thursday 1 June 2023, we met at 5:45pm with gathering music, opening remarks and the President Rev. Deborah Richards address. Over the next three days we heard presentations from the Executive Minister Treena Duncan, Regional ministries, the Indigenous interim minister Tony Snow, the retirees from PMRC, various committees, and lots of business. We had meaningful worship together, communion twice and music whenever they could schedule it.

These meetings are important but no more important than the installation of clergy. Two people, Frances Kitson and Derry Bott, were ordained and John Helps became a diaconal minister. The confirmation and communion worship ceremony took place on Sunday giving a nice rounding out of the meeting.

I will report on the business which was conducted and then I will discuss our Keynote speaker's presentation. These both took place over three separate times to give us time to absorb what was taking place.

The business consisted of six proposals and one remit. They were each introduced, then discussed, then voted on. The outcome of the voting would either let the proposal die or have it referred to the PMRC executive to pursue. I will list them as follows and whether they were passed (carried) or defeated.

Proposals 2023

WF23-01 Supporting Leadership of Adolescents & Youth (SLAY)

that Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada require that at least 5% of the voting representatives for annual general meeting, be 30 age or under in order to pass motions for decision.

DEFEATED

Reworded

WF23-01 Supporting Leadership of Adolescents & Youth (SLAY) Amendment

That PMRC of the UCC set a requirement that at least 5% of registered voting delegates at any annual meeting of PMRC be 30 years of age or under.

CARRIED

WF23-02 Get Rid of Greenhouse Gases (GROGG)

refer this proposal to the Executive for decision with the feedback from this session.

CARRIED

WF23-03 A Regional Staff Position for Senior's Ministry

refer to the Executive for decision with the feedback from this session.

CARRIED

The last two proposals were referred to the Executive as we ran out of time to deal with them. Below is the letter emailed after the AGM to each of us.

June 4, 2023

From Business Committee

Here is what was recommended in the Way Forward proposals which are being forwarded to the Executive. They will make whatever decisions they make when they consider them.

Regarding **WF23-05 UnSettling Hewlett Packard**

We heard the following: • general support • some questions about resources • our direction to communities of faith • we are already divested Our recommended way forward is to DIRECT the Regional Council, ENCOURAGE Communities of Faith, and REQUEST the General Council. that Pacific Mountain Regional Council divest from or cease any activity / investment / purchase agreements that support Hewlett Packard; and encourage communities of faith in the region to do the same; and request the General Council of The United Church of Canada to add Hewlett Packard specifically to the UnSettling Goods Campaign.

WF23-05 UnSettling Hewlett Packard

“Pacific Mountain Regional Council initiate, encourage and assist its communities of faith to engage writing campaigns requesting their municipal council and/or Regional Districts to pass resolutions calling on the federal government to implement a Guaranteed Livable Income; and provide a guideline to communities of faith for identifying and approaching their municipal council along with templates to submit.”

There was one remit. This caused a lot of discussion as some of us had not heard of it before and we felt that more information should have been given to us before the AGM. We did not have problems with the content of the Remit only the process. Remits are National in focus and each region gives feedback to National as to the wishes of their own region.

Remit #1

“Do we agree with establishing an autonomous national indigenous organization within The United Church of Canada.”

CARRIED

Nominations:

that Ibi Chuan be reappointed to the PMRC Executive for 2023-2026, and that Joseph Kyser and Johannesburg VanKessel-Crozier be elected for a first term of 2023-2026

CARRIED

President-Elect ~ The Rev. Dr. Simon LeSieur

Won by acclamation.

Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. She is lead Minister of Middle Church in Manhattan USA. She gave three 1 ½ hour presentations, each with a theme.

- Theme 1 'Forged in the Fire: Tools for living these days.'
- Theme 2, 'Unfinished Business'
- Theme 3 'A bold new thing on Earth; can you see it?'

Her presentations were masterful, intriguing, informative, probing, and suggestive. I felt pastorally cared for during each of her talks. Amazing. Our AGMs theme was Refining Fire Living Stones, and she wove her stories in and around these topics. We all have 'Fires' in our lives and we deal with them because we must. Our church has undergone 'Fires' and what we do now will direct our future. We can be fruitful or resentful.

She talked about how our history of colonial, patriarchal, non-inclusiveness is not working, and we must change. Within that change we must change language to be more up to date and inclusive. COVID peeled back so much now we must identify our truest truth and work with that in moving forward.