



Rev. Faith March-MacCuish  
Regional Council Executive Minister  
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709-691-3524

December 19, 2018

## **First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council**

Dear Friends,

As the end of the calendar year approaches, the shift to the three-council model of governance is soon to be upon us. That means that several familiar aspects of our life are winding up in our Conference and new things are beginning in the Region.

### **A New Name**

The Transition Commission for Region 16 has chosen, by consensus:

### **FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Thank you for the many good submissions for the name of our new region. This is a joining together of two concepts that were submitted in two separate submissions in our naming competition. Congratulations to Kathleen Taylor and Stephen Jewczyk who are the winners of the contest.

**First Dawn** helps to position the region geographically as the land which experiences the first light of day in our country. More importantly, it reflects the new dawning of The United Church of Canada and its commitment to witnessing God's love in a progressive way to our society.

**Eastern Edge** reflects on our position of Newfoundland and Labrador as having the longest coastline in Canada, reflects on us having the most easterly point in North America and reflects on our people as being on the cutting edge in everything we do.

On behalf of the Transition Commission, we are asking you to make sure that all the Communities of Faith within your bounds are aware of the following:

### **Membership in Regional Council**

- a. All ministry personnel, active and retired, are members of Regional Council;
- b. Lay members are elected according to a familiar formula:
  - a. 1 rep per community of faith with 100 or fewer resident members;
  - b. 2 reps from every community of faith with 101-200 resident members;
  - c. 3 reps from every community of faith with 201-300 resident members;
  - d. 4 reps from every community of faith with more than 300 resident members

Please note that current delegates to District/Conference are eligible to become representatives to Regional Council but must be elected as such at a congregational meeting.

## **Human Resources**

Please note that the talents and experience of the past delegates to District/Conference will be crucial in the work of the Region. We invite you to bring your enthusiasm and dedication to this new ministry. There will be Divisions/Teams for virtually every aspect of our life and work, although some of these will be organized differently from the past.

In addition, the new structure calls for local clusters to provide a focus for any number of shared interests that we want to keep alive. These could focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, justice work, strategic planning – the only limit is our imagination! There will also be networks of folk in different parts of our country focused on particular issues or projects. There is only minimal definition provided by the General Council for clusters and networks. One place to think of them is to sustain relationships based on geography or otherwise that you may have already developed.

Please complete an Expression of Interest form from the website. If you are unable to locate the form, please be in touch with the office. This is the place to express interest. Please note that we may not be able to accommodate everyone's expressed interest in their first choice but we will work with you to find a suitable position for your gifts and skills to be shared.

## **Mission Support Grants**

Ministries that previously received monies through Mission Support Grants *and* direct grants from Conference and/or District have all been informed about the decisions for 2019. If any group missed the application notice, they should contact Conference Office (until December 31) or the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Office (after January 1).

## **Communications**

The Transition Commission is committed to doing our best to keep everyone in the loop. Effective January 1, the Transition Commission becomes the Regional Council Executive until the first meeting of the Regional Council.

- a. Transition Commission and Regional Council Executive updates will be posted on the Regional Council website;
- b. A new governance model is taking shape and will be posted as soon as possible. Please note that this is a living document that will see many changes as we move into the new reality;
- c. The Nominations Committee will be contacting people regarding roles in the new structure. Please consider their requests carefully.

## **Who to Contact**

You can contact Regional Council staff if you need help in the following areas. You can email or call the toll free number **1-800-268-3781** and enter the extension number below.

- Financial/Insurance questions regarding the new Regional Council should be directed to Alison Piercey [APiercey@united-church.ca](mailto:APiercey@united-church.ca) Ext. 6139 or Faith March-MacCuish [FMacCuish@united-church.ca](mailto:FMacCuish@united-church.ca) Ext. 6156

- Pastoral Relations/Pastoral Oversight questions should be directed to Regional Minister, Heather Sandford [HSandford@united-church.ca](mailto:HSandford@united-church.ca) Ext. 6155
- Justice/Outreach questions should be directed to Laura Hunter [LHunter@united-church.ca](mailto: LHunter@united-church.ca) Ext. 6157
- Youth Ministry questions should be directed to Lauren King [LKing@united-church.ca](mailto: LKing@united-church.ca) Ext. 6158
- Property questions should be directed to Faith March-MacCuish [FMacCuish@united-church.ca](mailto: FMacCuish@united-church.ca) Ext. 6156
- Students and Ministerial Matters – Andrew Richardson [ARichardson@united-church.ca](mailto: ARichardson@united-church.ca) Ext. 6104
- Stewardship and Special Gift Matters – Roger Janes [RJanes@united-church.ca](mailto: RJanes@united-church.ca) 1-709-486-3239
- Archives/Bookstore/Records – Leona Laundry [LLaundry@united-church.ca](mailto: LLaundry@united-church.ca) Ext. 6141
- Office Administration – Alison Piercey [APiercey@united-church.ca](mailto: APiercey@united-church.ca) Ext. 6139

### **Inaugural Regional Council Meeting**

The inaugural meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council will occur at Gander from May 3-5, 2019. Many more details to follow!!

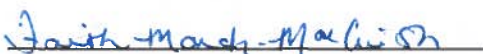
### **Other**

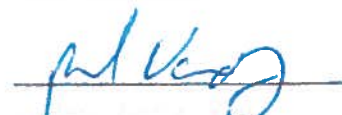
Please note the change in email addresses will take effect January 1, 2019

The Regional Council Transition Commission will become the Regional Council Executive from January 1 until the inaugural Regional Council Meeting. Paperwork for decision making should be directed to the Regional Council Transition Commission Secretary Paul Vardy [jpaulvardy@gmail.com](mailto:jpaulvardy@gmail.com)

In the case of emergencies during the Christmas break, please be in contact with Rev. Faith March-MacCuish via the cell number 709-691-3524.

Best wishes from the **First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Transition Commission** as we approach this exciting time in our church's life.

  
 Faith March-MacCuish (Rev.)  
 Executive Minister

  
 J. Paul Vardy (Rev.)  
 Secretary

**First Dawn Eastern Edge  
 Regional Council Transition Commission**