
13 March 2019 Meeting - St. Andrew's United Church, Chatham

Present: Joyce Payne (Chair), Eileen Antone, Grafton Antone, Jim Evans, Judith Fayter, Louise Hall, Beth Parsons, Robin Sherman, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Minister), Sue Duliban (Executive Assistant), Lynne Allin (Minister, Congregational Support and Mission), Diane Blanchard (Minister, Pastoral Relations, via phone)

Regrets: Beth Parsons

Opening Worship, Check-in, Acknowledgement of Territory

Joyce opened the meeting by acknowledged the territory. The group shared in the reading of Psalm 27 and Joyce closed with a prayer by Mary Oliver, "Praying".

Check-in

During check-in, discussion developed regarding a number of topics.

Minister, Social Justice: Cheryl-Ann suggested that in the fall the three regions might want to look at funding for a part-time contract while Diane Matheson-Jimenez is on maternity leave.

Regional chairs meeting: Joyce will be participating in a meeting with all the regional chairs and Nora Sanders to discuss how the new model is going and raise any issues. Joyce has concerns about the technology transition (particularly ChurchHub), confidentiality, and the workload of executive ministers and staff that she will raise. It was felt a "work around" process re: ChurchHub is required and that might be a suggestion to be put forward to GCO.

Covenanting services: Direction was given regarding attendance at covenanting services. Transition commission members are not the only ones who can attend as regional representative at covenanting services. Also, communities of faith are free to set the date and plan the service (as long as the UCC covenanting vows are included) as they wish.

The issue of communicating when a covenanting service is being held to the wider regional community is a piece that is being worked on.

There was brief discussion re: ministry personnel who don't participate and how to get people to attend covenanting services and just generally be more connected to the region. Robin Sherman noted that she has spoken to Kevin Steeper, Minister Pastoral Support about doing something in her area.

The covenant service planning template will be linked to the website (Lynne Allin and Cheryl-Ann to work on this).

Minutes of February 20, 2019

MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, **SECONDED:** Robin Sherman
Acceptance of the Minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting of Antler River Watershed Regional Council and Appendix 1 of those minutes, with corrected spelling of names listed in Appendix 1.

CARRIED

Business Arising from Minutes

1) Part-time pulpits (Diane Blanchard, Minister Pastoral Relations, joined the meeting by phone) Many questions/quandaries around this issue. Various London Conference previous practices were explained. Robin questioned if the transition commission should be creating a plan, and are there any regulations that should be looked at.

Cheryl-Ann suggested there are two issues: 1. What is the difference between part-time and full-time and she would encourage the Human Resources Commission to review, and 2. Licenced lay worship leaders. She questioned if this was a piece for the transition commission or something that should be directed to the human resources commission. Diane Blanchard noted that there will need to be an in-depth look at

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what was happening with LLWLs previously in presbyteries/conferences and what will happen going forward.

Diane added that she knows there are various policies from various presbyteries to put on the table for the human resources commission.

MOVED: Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Robin Sherman

That this discussion (part-time pulpits/fulltime, LLWLs) be put on the Human Resources Commission agenda for review. **CARRIED**

2) Woodslee manse inspection

It is anticipated that Woodslee will be sending in an application for a manse modernization grant. Robin has not yet received the manse inspection form and info from Colin Swann. She will follow-up.

3) Moraviantown

Cheryl-Ann gave an update on the meeting at Moraviantown, referencing the minutes from that meeting. She asked for agreement that \$300.00 be sent to Moraviantown United Church as a thank you for the hospitality provided.

MOVED: Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Mary Anne Silverthorn

That \$300.00 be sent to Moraviantown United Church as a thank you for the hospitality provided on March 1, 2019. **CARRIED**

One of the items not discussed at the meeting was whether or not there should be an outer limit on the date to transfer the museum property, i.e. to be transferred on 90 days notice from the Delaware Nation and not later than (for example) the fifth anniversary of the signing.

Cheryl-Ann will draft and send a note from Joyce and herself, to Chief Stonefish noting this oversight so that the council can talk about it when they next meet. Grafton noted that their elections are soon (June) and they might want it resolved by then. Also the next council might not see it the same way as the current council.

MOVED: Louise Hall, **SECONDED:** Judith Fayter

That the minutes from the March 1, 2019 meeting at Moraviantown United Church be accepted. **CARRIED**

4) April 6 gathering

It was agreed that the April 6 gathering will not be going forward. Cheryl-Ann suggested another option might be to host a webinar on governance, facilitated by Stephen Fetter (United-in-Learning).

MOVED: Robin Sherman, **SECONDED:** Jim Evans

That Stephen Fetter be asked to help facilitate a webinar around governance for Antler River Watershed Regional Council. **CARRIED**

Cheryl-Ann and Joyce will coordinate the timing of the webinar.

5) Credence & Co. report

Cheryl-Ann brought forward the Credence report recommendations. She recommended that ARW regional council assume responsibility for the costs for undertaking recommendations 1 & 2 (both clearly to arise out of the complaint and involve staff in facilitating, which is our oversight). She would also recommend that the pastoral charge be told that ARW regional council has an expectation that they will act on recommendations 3 & 4, (these involve norms and conduct in the congregation) and that they (the pastoral charge) are responsible for the costs.

MOVED: Louise Hall, **SECONDED:** Judith Fayter

That ARW Regional Council approve regional support and contract with the consultant who did the assessment to work through recommendations 1 & 2 up to a threshold of \$3,000.00. **CARRIED**

Correspondence

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- 1) Social Justice Group query
MOVED: Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Grafton Antone
That ARW Regional Council provide travel coverage for the meeting costs for people from ARW who meet as a social network until the creation of the Mission & Discipleship Commission.

CARRIED
- 2) Archives Consultation Invitation Letter
A request for ARW regional council to provide representation to an Archives & Record Keeping Consultation in June 2019 was received.
MOVED: Robin Sherman, **SECONDED:** Louise Hall
That Judith Fayter represent Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the Archives & Record Keeping Consultation in June, 2019.

CARRIED
- 3) Monies received from Kent Presbytery (for information)
As well as Kent Presbytery, monies have been received from Middlesex, Oxford, Essex and Elgin presbyteries. C-A suggested that it might be good to think about (before Port Elgin) how assets are to be used. It would be a good discussion to have with the whole region. Joyce agreed there would be wisdom in going to Port Elgin with suggestions. *To be included on April meeting agenda.
- 4) Regarding costs associated with a congregational review in London Conference.
MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, **SECONDED:** Jim Evans
That charges associated with a review of one of ARW congregations that are incurred in 2019 will be covered by ARW. Louise Hall to confirm this arrangement with the congregation.

CARRIED

Cheryl-Ann to follow-up on the congregational review.

It is hoped final London Conference financial statements will be available in April.

Community of Faith Decisions

- 1) Property Matters
 - a) Glencoe Trinity sale
MOVED: Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Robin Sherman, that Antler River Watershed Regional Council give its consent:
(1) To authorize the Board of Trustees of Trinity United Church, Glencoe, Ontario to list the church building for sale, the legal description of which is Plan 28, Lot 17 and Lot 18 in the former village of Glencoe, now part of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and the municipal address of which is 180 Main Street, Glencoe, Ontario, subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:
List price: For Fair Market Value based on three estimates and not below the sale price of \$120,000.00.
(2) Net proceeds to be held in trust with the interest only available for use. Any draw on the principal will require the prior approval of Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

CARRIED
 - b) St Paul's sale
MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, **SECONDED:** Grafton Antone, that Antler River Watershed Regional Council give its consent:
(1) To the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is:
St. Paul's United Church, Windsor, Ontario N8Y 3B7
Plan 679; Lot 42 & S. pt. Lot 41; Plan 679; Lot 43 to 47; Lot 61 & pt. Lots 60 & 62; Plan 531; Pt Closed Alley; RP 12R22935; parts 2, 3 & 10.
And the Municipal address of which is: 967 and 973 Pillette Rd & O Arthur Rd.
Pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of St. Paul's United Church, Windsor, ON, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, and the former Essex Presbytery of The United Church of Canada, as Seller, and Nigerian Canadian Muslim Society of Windsor, as Buyer, dated 6th day of December 2018, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

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- a. Purchase price: \$375,000.00 less the deposit of \$5,000.00 (Held in Trust, Royal LePage). The balance due: \$370,000.00
 - b. Conditions: Repair hot water to areas in vespiary. (As is Condition)
 - c. Closing date: March 29, 2019
 - (2) Net proceeds to be held in trust until Antler River Watershed Regional Council sets its policy re: property of disbanding congregations. The congregation's wish to support Gesstwood Camp and Education Centre, Windsor Youth Centre, and The United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor is noted and will be included in Antler River Watershed Regional Council's considerations. **CARRIED**
 - c) Hickson sale
MOVED: Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Mary Anne Silverthorn, that Antler River Watershed Regional Council give its consent:
 - (1) To the sale of certain Real Property, the Hickson United Church at East half part lot 21, 11th concession of East Zorra Tavistock Township in the County of Oxford, pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of Hickson United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller, and Church Street Properties, as Buyers, dated the 2nd day of March, 2019, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:
 - a. Purchase price: \$200,000.00
 - b. Buyers: Church Street Properties
 - c. Closing date: March 15, 2019
 - (2) Net proceeds to be held in trust with the interest only available for use. Any draw on the principal will requires the prior approval of Antler River Watershed Regional Council. **CARRIED**
- 2) Requests for a change in pastoral relations
 - a) **MOVED:** Mary Anne Silverthorne, **SECONDED:** Jim Evans
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the request from Rev. Tracey Crick-Butler (OM) for a change in the pastoral relationship between her and Wesley-Knox United Church, London effective August 31, 2019. **CARRIED**
- 3) Naming pastoral charge supervisors
 - a) Knox-Embros &
 - b) Mount Elgin
MOVED: Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Robin Sherman
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council appoint the following pastoral charge supervisors: Mark Marshall to Knox-Embros and Lloyd Bennett to Mount Elgin. **CARRIED**

Mary Anne will confirm with Mark and Lloyd that they have been appointed.
- c) Tupperville – No one has been named yet. Suggestions: Linda Van Leewan or Carol Ferguson. Joyce agreed to contact.
- Pastoral charge supervisors required
Innerkip Eastwood: Mary Anne Silverthorn will check on possibilities.
Central Sarnia: Louise Hall will ask Doug Wright if he could serve. If he is unable to do so, Louise will do so.
When confirmed, these appointments to be approved via email vote.
- 4) Approving vacancy profiles – no items to bring forward

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- 5) Approving and appointing liaisons
- a) **MOVED:** Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Grafton Antone
That the following regional liaison appointments be approved by Antler River Watershed Regional Council:
That Mary Anne Silverthorn be appointed regional liaison for Embro and that Louise Hall be appointed regional liaison for Trinity Wallaceburg. **CARRIED**

Mary Anne Silverthorn will ask Bonnie Pilkey if she will serve as regional liaison for Mount Elgin. This appointment will be part of an email vote if confirmed.
Note: Central Sarnia will need a liaison and a supervisor.

- 6) Approving calls/appointments
- a) **MOVED:** Jim Evans, **SECONDED:** Robin Sherman
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the part-time appointment of Derek Parry (RS) to the Tilbury Quinn Pastoral Charge effective April 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 according to the terms set out in the signed record of appointment. **CARRIED**
- Lynne Allin will follow-up regarding covenanting service.

Incorporated Ministries

- 1) Essex Presbytery Development Fund/Windsor Essex United Church Development Fund By-laws
This item was deferred and will be brought forward at the April meeting as key clauses are missing in the by-laws.
- 2) United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor By-laws
There is an irregularity in these by-laws that Cheryl-Ann has authorized from her end, so she is seeking authorization to send the by-laws, with her explanation as to why she has authorized, to the General Council for approval. Cheryl-Ann noted that this is a \$10 million/year corporation managing huge real estate assets along with a large operating budget. Asking permission from regional council before they buy property does not seem to be a necessary exercise. None of their assets and the initial real estate property was achieved through the corporation itself, not through the United Church.

MOVED: Robin Sherman, **SECONDED:** Louise Hall
That Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, having provided an explanation to Antler River Watershed Regional Council as to why the real property motion in the United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor By-laws is worded differently, be authorized by the regional council to make a case for that and seek administrative approval at the General Council Office and forward the by-laws to the General Council Office. **CARRIED**

Commission Planning (all carried forward from last meeting)

- 1) Ministry Sharing Agreement
MOVED: Robin Sherman, **SECONDED:** Judith Fayter
Acceptance and approval of the Ministry Sharing Agreement. **CARRIED**
- 2) Affirm United (for information)
The Affirm Network is active and working at putting a presentation together for the annual meeting. Joyce is part of the network, which is starting to reach out to congregations; working hard at presenting a really positive message.
- 3) Draft covenant between regional council and community of faith
It was generally felt that the draft was more about contract than covenant. It was agreed that a smaller group would do some work on the covenant and bring it back to the commission for discussion. Judith Fayter, Lynne Allin and Grafton Antone agreed to do this work.

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4) Confidentiality agreement – for signatures (completed)

5) Property policy

Cheryl-Ann presented an overview of concepts regarding revenue, operating expenses, and assets. She noted that property is an asset and has the potential to invest in ministry or generate income. Three main areas where policy needs to be determined.

Major renovations

There needs to be a threshold for major renovations above which the regional council needs to be consulted. Additionally, spending of assets/reserves requires a threshold.

Amalgamations of congregations

Congregations hold all their assets for their use during their lifetime. When congregations amalgamate, all assets become jointly owned and in general nothing becomes surplus

Disbanding of congregations

When congregations disband the date is important: assets remaining after the disbanding date become remaining property for the region to decide. In general, net proceeds are used by the ministries of the United Church. Disbursement of assets (possibilities):

Indigenous ministry

Assessments

Archives

M&S (current & endowment)

Congregation's wishes

Regional share

Cheryl-Ann suggested one question to consider, what do you want to encourage?

A broader discussion continued with comments about how to approach the various considerations of the property policy. The commission decided to further consider the options and will revisit this policy at the April meeting.

Other Business

1) Annual meeting update

Cameron Trimble has been booked as the theme speaker at the Regional Meeting in May. ARW will also invite Campbell Lovett of the United Church of Christ to be their guest at the meeting. The next meeting of the Regional meeting planning committee will be Monday, March 25, at Unifor, Port Elgin.

2) Cheryl-Ann flagged the issue of transition succession planning/mentoring and the need to plan training sessions for volunteers who will serve on the commissions.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 10 a.m., at either United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor (Robin Sherman to inquire) or at Tecumseh United Church.