
8 May 2019 Meeting, 10 a.m. - St. Andrew's, Chatham

Present: Joyce Payne (Chair), 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) (Judith Fayter joined the meeting at 11 a.m., Beth Parsons joined the meeting at lunch)

Regrets: Jim Evans

Opening Worship, Check-in, Acknowledgement of Territory

Joyce spoke of her personal grief and of offering prayers and concern for the whole theological community on the death of Rachel Held Evans, a young theologian.

She acknowledged that we are on the grounds of our indigenous brothers and sisters.

Grafton Antone gave a blessing as the transition commission convened their last business meeting; relating his blessing to the nature story shared previously. (A garter snake appeared in front of a filing cabinet at the regional office).

Joyce thanked the transition commission and the regional office staff for their work and expressed her gratitude to all.

Approval of Minutes of prior meeting (April 10, 2019)

MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, SECONDED: Grafton Antone

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2019.

CARRIED

Business Arising from Minutes

1) Property policy – clarification of final paragraph in motion

It was felt the final paragraph in the property policy motion passed at the April 10th meeting needed clarification.

MOVED: Eileen Antone, SECONDED: Mary Anne Silverthorn

To clarify the intent of the final paragraph of the policy motions to read, "A congregation may give an amount equal to the percentage of its previous year's revenue that was donated to a non-United Church registered charity to that charity."

CARRIED

Correspondence

1) Native Peoples Retreat funding request

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Grafton Antone

That ARW regional council agree to be one of the funding partners for the Native Peoples Retreat and contribute 2000.00.

CARRIED

Cheryl-Ann noted that she is seeking clarification from Executive Ministers on how to handle additional requests above Mission and Service funding.

2) All Native Circle Conference funding request

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Robin Sherman

That ARW regional council bear one third of the cost of the All Native Circle Conference held the last weekend in April, 2019.

CARRIED

Kim and Cheryl-Ann have authorized and communicated that for ministry personnel and regional representatives from indigenous communities we are prepared to absorb the costs of the annual meeting this year.

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Robin Sherman

That ARW regional council endorse absorbing the costs of the annual meeting this year for ministry personnel and regional representatives from indigenous communities. CARRIED

Community of Faith Decisions

1) Wesley Knox United Church – Constitution approval

Lynne Allin advised that the constitution is an incredibly thorough document and while there are a couple points that the community of faith might want to revisit (definition of adherent, trustees life appointment), these could be done as amendments in future.

MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, SECONDED: Robin Sherman

That the Wesley Knox United Church revised constitution be approved.

CARRIED

2) Faith Trinity – permission to use manse funds

No details have been received, nor a reply to a request for details. When the community of faith has a specific need it will need to be considered, but it cannot be authorized in advance.

MOVED: Robin Sherman, SECONDED: Mary Anne Silverthorn

Antler River Watershed regional council acknowledges receipt of correspondence from Faith Trinity regarding permission to use manse funds and when a firm request is received the situation will be revisited.

CARRIED

3) Request for a change in pastoral relations

a) MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Robin Sherman

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the request for change in pastoral relations from Jim Hatt, DM, Essex United Church for the purpose of re-retirement effective June 30, 2019.

CARRIED

4) Naming pastoral charge supervisors

a) Lambeth United – pastoral charge supervisor for medical leave

Suggestions: Diane MacPherson (Colborne), Greg Brawn (Byron), Wendy Noble (Dundas & Rowntree). To be reviewed

The regional council to provide acknowledgment of the work being done at Lambeth by the parish nurse funded by the United Church Foundation.

b) Trinity, Wallaceburg

It was noted Curtis Marwood was already authorized by presbytery prior to January 1.

c) Ausable Parkhill Thetford – David Van Patter or Dawn Hill suggested. Lynne will followup.

d) Tupperville? Joyce has called, but not spoken to, Carol Ferguson and will try again. Suggestion that Doreen Hewitson be asked if Carol says no.

e) Trinity, Ingersoll requires a pastoral charge supervisor for the time between Bill Mayoros retiring June 30, and when ready to call.

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Judith Fayter

That Mary Anne Silverthorn be appointed pastoral charge supervisor for Trinity, Ingersoll.

CARRIED

f) Hebron will be without clergy as of June 30th and will need a pastoral charge supervisor. Lynne will ask Jane Van Patter if she will serve.

5) Approving vacancy profiles

a) St. Paul's Aylmer – profile

It was agreed that there are three pieces requiring further information: clarification about hrs; accountability; and ministry type. St. Paul's to be advised that while appreciative of the work that has been done, there remain outstanding matters and the regional councils asks that Lynne Allin meet with the board to outline the new procedures re: creating profiles, posting vacancies, and discuss.

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MOVED: Judith Fayter, SECONDED: Robin Sherman
That Antler River Watershed regional council approves the living faith story of St. Paul's, Aylmer, but is not yet ready to approve the position description. The position description to be returned for further consultation with the Minister, Congregational Support and Mission. CARRIED

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Mary Anne Silverthorn
That Antler River Watershed regional council refer to the position description of St. Paul's, Aylmer, noting concerns about clarification of hours, accountability and category of ministry personnel and indicating a liaison will be found and appointed to work with them. CARRIED

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Mary Anne Silverthorn
That flowers to be sent to Margery Smith. CARRIED

b) Byron United

MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, SECONDED: Louise Hall
That Antler River Watershed regional council authorize Byron United Church to proceed with a search for either ministry personnel, half-time, in accord with the position description submitted or alternatively, with a congregational designated minister, half-time, in accord with the position description submitted for that role. CARRIED

c) Mount Elgin profile

MOVED: Grafton Antone, SECONDED: Mary Anne Silverthorn
Approval by Antler River Watershed regional council of the Mount Elgin United Church community of faith profile. CARRIED

6) Approving and appointing liaisons

a) MOVED: Judith Fayter, SECONDED: Beth Parsons
That Louise Hall be appointed regional liaison to Central United Church, Sarnia when their other profiles have been approved. CARRIED

b) MOVED: Mary Anne Silverthorn, SECONDED: Robin Sherman
That the following regional liaisons be appointed
Joyce Payne to Wesley Knox United Church;
Jim Evans to First, St. Thomas;
Michelle Down to Central, St. Thomas. CARRIED

7) Approving calls/appointments

a) MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Robin Sherman
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the provisional call of Jacob Shaw (candidate) to Villages United, Granton effective June 1, 2019. CARRIED

b) MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Eileen Antone
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the renewal of appointment of Dan Leaver at Dunlop United Church, part-time, effective July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. CARRIED

8) Trinity Ingersoll – referred for information a copy of an email re: minister search, time sensitive request. Community of faith to vote on a candidate at a May 19 congregational meeting. If needed, a provisional call can be approved by conference call.

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9) Dunlop United Church

Cheryl-Ann provided background re: the report submitted by Fred Monteith. Fred was recruited by London Conference following the congregational review of Dunlop United Church. The review found that the congregation was in an unsatisfactory state and set out several actions to be taken by the congregation and its Council so that it might return to a satisfactory state. Fred's work is now complete and his report recommends that Dunlop United Church, Sarnia has returned to a satisfactory state.

MOVED: Judith Fayer, SECONDED: Eileen Antone

That Antler River Watershed regional council receive the report from Fred Monteith recommending that Dunlop United Church, Sarnia has returned to a satisfactory state.

CARRIED

Cheryl-Ann also noted that threats specific to Dunlop United Church and its minister have been made. These threats have been reported to Sarnia police. She suggested the regional council send a note to Dunlop saying we are aware of some of the public media you have been dealing with and commend you for being clear and seeking to embrace all God's people and we hold you in prayer. Agreed.

10) Fairmont United Church

MOVED: Louise Hall, SECONDED: Grafton Antone

That Antler River Watershed regional council direct the Executive Minister to transfer the title of Fairmont United Church to the United Church of Canada effective July 1, 2019. To enter into an agreement with the General Council Office to confirm the oversight of the property is the responsibility of Antler River Watershed regional council and that the General Council Office will act on the property at the direction of the regional council. To enter into an agreement with the Middlesex United Church council and Metropolitan United Church re: the missional congregation (application attached) in which the regional council carries responsibility for title and insurance on the building and assures the Middlesex United Church council of the congregation's portion of the asset if it is sold within the first three years of the project.

CARRIED

Cheryl-Ann will meet with Middlesex United Church to review and answer any questions.

Other Business

1) Leadership gathering (New executive and commissions, transition commission) June 12: Kenesserie Camp (for info).

Adjourned.