

Covenant Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

Kenesserie Camp

Roster: Tom Brunt, Deb Ellacott, Jim Evans, Judith Fayter, Adam Kilner, Mark Marshall, Andi McKillop, Emmanuel Ofori, Mark Perry, Marie Santos

Staff Support: Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Administration, Communication, Records
Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Present: Tom Brunt, Deb Ellacott, Jim Evans, Judith Fayter, Andi McKillop, Emmanuel Ofori, Mark Perry, Marie Santos, Lynne Allin

Regrets: Mark Marshall

Absent: Adam Kilner

Welcome and Constitute Meeting:

Acknowledging the Land: The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

Opening Worship: Lynne Opened with prayer

- Reviewed the Binder, and referenced the ARW Governance document noting the mandate of the Covenant Commission on page 10.
- Discussed the option of working by consensus. Agreed that once a consensus is reached, that a motion will be made that 1. Encompasses the consensus and 2. Covers the legal and fiscal necessities/requirements and there will be a vote on the motion.

Opening Motions:

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Deb Ellacott/Jim Evans that the agenda be accepted as amended with the addition of First United St. Thomas under item 14 c.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

No previous minutes

Business Arising

1. None

New Business

1. Chair – Lynne Allin chaired the meeting. The duties of the chair were outlined as setting/calling meetings, chairing meetings and serve on the Executive Commission.
2. Pretima Kukadia-Kinting will be acting as Admin staff to take minutes and Lynne will follow up by notifying communities of faith of the commission decisions.
3. Expression of Interest – There may be more coming in. The Covenant Commission is tied to the covenant between the region and the communities of faith.
4. Covenant of confidentiality – read as a group, signed and submitted
5. Meeting dates – Wednesday the first week of the month at 10 AM
The July 3rd meeting will be a Zoom call to approve profiles or other time sensitive submissions. Plan to have face to face meetings in the fall.
ARW wk 1 – CC; wk 2 – HR
WOW wk 2 – CC; wk 3 – HR
HF wk 3 – CC; wk 4 – HR
6. Training Resource Pools
 - Lynne explained that the commission will need to decide what topics people will be trained in such as amalgamation, disbanding, profiles. Staff are working on resources, and if members of the commission have material that would be helpful, they are encouraged to send it to Lynne.
 - It was decided that members of the resource pool will be called Covenant Commission Companions.
 - Lynne described options for training congregational leadership such as train the trainer, and large group workshops. Discussed the need for resources and potential for using the website and newsletters to share information
 - Agreed it would be good to highlight stories of communities of faith doing something well in the newsletter to lift up and inspire.
7. Uniformity of Community of Faith profile worksheets
 - Lynne presented the draft handbook and worksheets being sent to communities of faith
 - Reviewed the importance of the information captured by the financial viability and demographic worksheets that leads to the living faith story
 - The living faith story is the CoF's "Why"

- This is reflective, discerning work that is helpful at any stage including disbanding.
8. Reviewed Best practices and agreed:
 - a. Decisions are with, not about, CoFs
 - b. Policy decisions will be made when the commission meets in person
 - c. Routine business will be done via Zoom
 9. Property Policy was discussed with a focus on the percentages to be followed when disbanding. It was noted that there are some exceptions, for example CoF that were originally Congregationalist
 10. Use of Drobox and Zoom – these are important to our work. If people have difficulty accessing them, staff will work with them to find a solution
 11. Emergent Business
 - a. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

MOTION by Jim Evans and Judith Fayter that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council appoint the following pastoral charge supervisors: Rev. Carol Ferguson to Tupperville and Rev. David Van Patter to Ausable. Carried.

- The commission also reviewed the list of CoF in need of supervisors, and were advised to let Lynne know if they had suggestions or knew of other charges to add to the list.
- b. Permission to list property for sale – Blenheim United Church

MOTION

“Moved by Jim Evans, seconded by Tom Brunt, that Antler River Watershed Regional Council give its consent:

**(1) to the listing of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Lot 2 & Pt Lots 3&4, South of McGregor St. Plan 88 as in BL3454, BL 3455, BL 10443 Blenheim, Ont, and the municipal address of which is 49 GEORGE, Blenheim, ON, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Blenheim United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller and David O’Brien, Broker of Century 21 O’Brien Inc., as Realtor, dated the 6 day of June, 2019, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:
Listing Price is \$400,000**

2) According to the MOU between Blenheim United Church and Edge, 2% of the proceeds will be paid to Edge, and will be considered part of the CoF's 33% if they decide to disband. Carried

- **the commission discussed the need to inspire and facilitate CoF to work together, and perhaps help Blenheim by providing storage, office space etc.**

a. Community of Faith Profile information:

- **The commission discussed the profiles that had been submitted. And raised questions such as: "What is our role with regard to the profiles?" "Do we affirm who they are, or who they are trying to grow into?" Do we simply receive them with thanks or question them?" And "When do we choose which route?"**

MOTION by Jim Evans and Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profiles for Watford, Wyoming and Knox (Embroy) United Churches, and approve Epworth United pending approval by the congregation on June 16th. Approval is also given to First United Church in St. Thomas with encouragement to continue with stewardship programs and growing into their values. Carried

- **The profiles for Sixth Line and Courtright were not approved and will be held over until the commission receives their financial profiles.**

b. Ministry Sharing Agreement

MOTION by Deb Ellacott and Jim Evans that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Ministry Sharing Agreement between Mt. Elgin United Church and Newark United Church. Carried

Application for Modernization Grant

MOTION by Mark Perry and Marie Santos that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Modernization Grant application from Windsor Korean Church for the purpose of window repair and replacement. Carried

Motion to Adjourn

June 12, 2019

CC 19-5

Next Meeting: July 3, 10:00 AM By Zoom