

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

---

**Place/Time:** Zoom Call 9:00 a.m.

**Roster:** Marie Santos (L, Chair), Tom Brunt (L), Deb Ellacott (L), Jim Evans (OM), Judith Fayter (OM), Adam Kilner (OM), Mark Marshall (OM), Andi McKillop (L), Mark Perry (OM)

**Staff Support:** Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Admin Assistant, PKukadia@united-church.ca  
Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support & Mission, LAllin@united-church.ca

**Present:** Marie Santos, Tom Brunt, Deb Ellacott, Judith Fayter, Mark Marshall, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia-Kinting

**Regrets:** Jim Evans, Adam Kilner

**Absent:**

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** The meeting was constituted and opened by Marie Santos

**Acknowledging the Land:** Territorial lands are acknowledged on behalf of the Covenant Commission by Marie Santos:

We are gathered this morning to worship on traditional lands. We recognize and deeply appreciate the historic connection to this ground we worship on. We also recognize the contributions of the Metis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made to our country. As settlers, this recognition must be clearly connected to our commitment to make the promise and the challenge of the Truth and Reconciliation real in the community in which we live and worship. We are grateful to the Creator for this time and this place.

**Opening Worship:** A worship was provided by Judith Fayter, anniversary of first pastoral charge and now doing worship entirely differently, Barbara Taylor Brown, 'Learning to Walk in the Dark' is everything light and sunshine? What can you only see in the dark: the stars, Abraham met God, Moses received God's law ..... the environment is healing itself in this space, people finding ways to stay connected and care for each other.

A prayer for lockdown, John 20:19, be close to us ...

**Opening Motions:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION by Mark Perry / Mark Marshall that the agenda be accepted as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

MOTION by Judith Fayter / Tom Brunt that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of 03-04-2020 as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

MOTION by Mark Perry / Andi McKillop that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of 03-17-2020 as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising:**

**New Business:**

1. Profiles and Living Faith Stories

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Mark Marshall that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council confirm the email vote of March 6<sup>th</sup> approving the profile and living faith story for **Trinity United Church in London** .

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

MOTION by Deb Ellacott / Judith Fayter that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for **Grace United Church in Sarnia**, pending approval by their governing body and congregation.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

MOTION by Deb Ellacott / Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for **Norwich United Church**.

Discussion: Encouraged to look for ministry partners, looking for category 'B' or 'C', using reserves, may be tough to find a half-time candidate.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Deb Ellacott that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for **Avondale United Church**.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

MOTION by Deb Ellacott / Tom Brunt that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile information from **Otterville United**

**Church** with the expectation that they will forward a completed financial viability worksheet and annual report.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Other Business**

1. Confirm Chair of Property Committee

MOTION by Mark Perry / Deb Ellacott that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request that Larry Leckie, an adherent at **St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia** serve as Chair of their Property Committee.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

2. Disbanding Date

**MOTION by Andi McKillop / Mark Perry** that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council set April 30<sup>th</sup> as the disbanding date for **Eastwood United Church**.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

3. Ministry Sharing Agreement

**MOTION by Judith Fayter / Andi McKillop** that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the ministry sharing agreement between **Avondale United Church and Otterville United Church**.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

4. Discussion

Webinar for Treasurers – how will bridge financing (line of credit taken by UCC to assist communities of faith) be handled? These loans from the United Church may come through the Covenant Commission and we will have some tough decisions to make. Some considerations: stewardship, reduce or suspend expenses, how will 75% wage subsidy apply – 30% income drop, municipalities will assist food shelters, etc., some restricted/unrestricted funds, line of credit will be signed by Erik Matheson, are there financial problems pre-pandemic?

Selling/buying churches are also on hold until situation resolves.

**Next Meeting:** May 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Mark Marshall

**MOTION that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned.**

**MOTION**

**AGREED**

**Meeting adjourned 10:05 a.m.**