

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2019, St. Andrew's United Church, Chatham

Present: Joyce Payne (President), , Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Louise Hall, Doreen Hewitson, Kenji Marui, Bill Rothernel, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash, Carey Wagner

Staff Support: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister

Regrets: Karlene Brown-Palmer, Richard Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Deanna Gibson

Welcome, Constitute Meeting & Acknowledgement of Territory:

The Executive gathered at the WISH Centre, in Chatham, site of the November 2nd meeting to tour the premises in advance of the meeting.

Constitution

At 10:20 a.m., President Joyce constituted the meeting with these words:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, I constitute this meeting of the Executive of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of the meeting will be the parlour of St. Andrew's United Church, Chatham.

Acknowledging the Land

President Joyce acknowledged that our sacred spaces are found on the traditional territories of the Attwandaron, Anishnaabe and Haudennosaunee people and we give thanks for their stewardship of the land.

Introductions

Each member of the Executive introduced themselves.

Decision-Making Procedure

The Executive spent some time discussing the merits and drawbacks of parliamentary procedure versus consensus decision-making. It was agreed this would be a helpful topic to explore more fully at the November gathering with all Executives present.

MOTION: Carey Wagner / Louise Hall

That routine procedural matters will be handled by consensus.

CARRIED

Agenda

It was **agreed** by consensus to adopt the agenda as circulated at the meeting.

Minutes

It was **agreed** by consensus to approve the minutes of June 12, 2019 and July 9, 2019 Executive meetings with the addition of Marie Santos name to the list of those present on July 9th.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Note was made of the response sent to the U.C.W. in answer to their letter to the Executive. Neither President Joyce nor Cheryl-Ann have been advised who will be serving as U.C.W. representative. Cheryl-Ann agreed to follow-up with U.C.W. President, Sandra Bendall.
2. United in Worship is the on-line resource providing a full Sunday service to enable lay-led congregations to have access to United Church worship resources. Antler River Watershed Regional Council agreed to supply the services for October. As the month is fast approaching, it was agreed individuals would be contacted and asked to prepare a service. Names suggested were: Jim Evans, Michelle Down, Robin Sherman, Sheila MacGregor, Doug Peck, Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes. President Joyce and Cheryl-Ann will follow up on this.
3. Social Justice Minister Update: Cheryl-Ann advised that, due to summer travel plans, the interviews needed to be extended over a longer period. She anticipates organizing a conference call to bring a name to the Executive next week.
4. Fairmont Partnership Agreement: Cheryl-Ann advised that the draft material was with legal counsel who had questioned if we wish to maintain its informal tone or if we wish the agreement in stronger legal language. It was agreed that formalizing the agreement in legal terms would be in everyone's best interest.
5. November 2nd Meeting
Registration: no charge but page closes completely several days in advance; newsletter with registration to be sent soon
Encourage car pooling; need to ask First Baptist if their parking lot is free that day
Tables: round tables with people assigned to table groups; rent tablecloths.
Sound/Tech: Pat Morrison has agreed to do tech for the day; space will not be available until after 5:00 p.m. Friday
Worship Team: Charmaine Bailey-Fourtner, Sadekie Lyttle Forbes, Beth Parsons, and Greg Simpson are working on worship with President Joyce. They will organize music.
*Note: musical selections will need to be shared with the office at least two weeks in advance to secure copyright.
Catering: Williams St. Café. Muffins and coffee on arrival; lunch at \$14-\$15 per person; ask Doug Wright to monitor food line.

As it was now approximately 11:30 a.m., the suggestion was made to deal with other items before breaking for lunch in order to be able to devote the afternoon to finances.

New Business

1. **ARW Regional Council Omnibus Motion**

MOTION: Doreen Hewitson / Kenji Marui

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approves the Pearce Williams United Church Christian Centre 2019-2020 Board of Directors:

- a. Charlotte Chamberlain
- b. Mark Emergy
- c. Patrick Erb
- d. Brad Graham
- e. Patti McKague
- f. Brenda MacMain
- g. Glenda McMillan
- h. Laura Penner
- i. John Sanders.

CARRIED

2. **Definition of a Community of Faith**

Section of the Manual provides a definition of a community of faith.

MOTION: Carey Wagner / Doug Cameron

That Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, GessWood Camp, Kenesserie Camp, Lambton United Church Centre, Pearce Williams United Church Christian Centre meet the definition of a community of faith and are recognized as such by Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

CARRIED

Cheryl-Ann will advise the Boards of Directors of this decision. They will be advised that a covenant will be developed and invited to send a representative to the regional meeting on November 2nd.

3. **Election of General Council Commissioners**

Antler River Watershed Regional Council has 13 Commissions to General Council. It was agreed that Cheryl-Ann would draft a proposal for the consideration of the November 2nd meeting based on these principles:

- 2 representatives from Indigenous ministries; the way in which they are selected to be determined in consultation with Indigenous ministries
- 1 Youth
- 1 Young Adult
- 1 Racialized/Deaf

Any nominees from these ballots who are not elected to be included on the final ballot from which the balance of commissioners will be elected according to the criteria set out by the General Council.

4. Antler River Trading Post

President Joyce shared that she has been interested in getting a symbol/icon for our region. She shared news of the Antler River Trading Post and discussed the possibility of securing an artist from there. It was agreed that it is helpful to have the United Church crest as part of any image attached to the regional council. President Joyce will investigate options and cost for further discussion.

5. Affirm Update

Diane Skomash is also a member of the Affirm governing body. She shared the good news that the organization is growing with an increasing number of ministries entering the process of becoming recognized as an Affirming ministry. This is exciting but means that hosting the Annual General Meeting and Conference for Affirm has become too large a task for a single congregation. The leadership of Affirm is hoping that regional councils will become stronger allies in this ministry. President Joyce will discuss this with the Affirm network of the three regions when it meets in a few weeks.

6. Mission and Discipleship Commission

Carey Wagner shared that the Commission met the day before and considered the following items:

- a) Proposal from Annual Meeting re cuts to legal aid funding for refugees/asylum seekers. Plans are made to prepare a text to share with congregations. There was discussion re the federal government action to fill this funding gap.
- b) Federal Election Kit available from the United Church of Canada website. It encourages congregations to host all candidates at a worship service at which prayers can be offered for them.
- c) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions
The network is asking regional councils for funding for 2020 (2019 already paid). Each regional council is entitled to have two representatives present. Plans underway to approach one of the lay people in the region.
- d) We Are Still Here. The filmmaker is combining two videos to create one thirty minute one.

7. Human Resources Commission

Doreen Hewitson presented on behalf of the Commission. The Commission met yesterday and is pleased to report 12 new liaisons have been trained: Carol Ferguson, Dave Hewitson, Doreen Hewitson, Donna Kerrigan, Sadekie Lyttle Forbes, Norm MacPherson, Celia Orth, Marie Santos, Del Stewart, Colin Swan, David Van Patter, and Wanda Winfield. Beth Parsons has resigned from the Commission for personal reasons.

A policy-setting meeting will be held September 25 and 26 to look at policies for:

- a) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders
- b) Appointments, including Voluntary Associate Ministers
- c) Sacraments for: i) Sacraments Elders; ii) Licensing students; iii) Licensing retired Diaconal Ministers; iv) Licensing retired Designated Lay Ministers.

The round-table discussion that followed revealed the diversity of policies in the previous Presbyteries. It will be helpful to have consistency and clarity.

The Commission has been advised of an issue with a congregation in the region. The Commission has been informed and is following United Church policy on the matter.

8. Covenant Commission

Marie Santos presented for the Covenant Commission sharing that, over the summer, the Commission only dealt with emerging work that required an immediate response. This fall they are arranging training sessions. The regional council representatives accompanying communities of faith on behalf of the Covenant Commission will be called Companions to avoid confusion with Liaisons.

The Commission will meet the first Wednesday of every month and paperwork will need to be submitted by the Friday before. If a community of faith has already consulted with the Commission on a matter and needs paperwork processed quickly for a real estate transaction, the Commission would be willing to consider it at a special meeting. Time has been set aside on Wednesday mornings for such meetings if needed.

The Commission is working at the covenant between each community of faith and the regional council and also considering how to have these

9. Theme

President Joyce shared that she has drawn her theme from John 1:14. In "The Message" this verse reads: Jesus moved into the neighbourhood. President Joyce would like to encourage the church to be present in our neighbourhood. How are we living as disciples of Christ? She envisions setting out some spiritual practices to help us be intentional in opening ourselves to God's presence among us.

As it was now 12:45 p.m., it was agreed to break for lunch until 1:30 p.m.
The Executive reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

10. Finances

Cheryl-Ann distributed the document: Looking at Finances (Appendix 1) reviewing sources of funding for the regional council.

The Assessment grant devoted to governance or decision-making, to the work that requires a decision of the regional council such forming a pastoral relationship or selling property.

The priorities the region identified for these funds are:

- Pastoral relations
- Community of faith support (including Indigenous communities of faith)
- Communications

Mission and Service grant is dedicated to mission and ministry and provides for regional staff working in this field and for grants to ministries. The regional council was aware that Presbyteries generously supported some of these ministries earlier. The priorities identified for these funds are:

- Social justice including Affirm mandate
- Camps/Youth
- Living into right relations.

Another source of funds is the percentage of property sales id disbanding congregations that will come to the region. It is reasonable to assume this may be in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 per year. A portion of these property sales will be directed by the disbanding congregation to the United Church ministries of their choice. The balance is shared with Mission and Service, current year and endowment fund and with the archive reserve fund. If contributions come into the reserve fund, it may be used to cover off a portion of the yearly cost.

The final source of funds is that from the Presbyteries and Conference. How best to use these? It was agreed that Cheryl-Ann would prepare a proposal for the Executive to review for presentation on November 2nd that

- 1) Creates an Operations Reserve of not less than \$200,000
- 2) Invests in People
 - I. Learning grants: 1/3 regional council, local congregation, individual up to \$500
 - II. Support for specific programs as needed by regional council or presented to regional council for consideration.

It was agreed that the Embracing the Spirit initiative and New Ministry funds in the United Church of Canada Foundation provide a resource for communities of faith interested in launching innovative ministries.

It was also agreed that United Church grants and loans provide some support for capital improvements. Additionally some congregations can access their local extension council for either capital improvements and/or new ministries. This is sufficiently covered to allow the regional council to focus on the development and lay and ministry leaders.

The financial statements presented were reviewed. (Appendices 2-6) Both Treasurer Doug and Cheryl-Ann are not clear concerning some figures on the statements and need to consult with General Council staff managing our accounts. It was agreed that the format of the financial statement worked and that the bar graph was not necessary.

11. Corporations

The final item of business included an update that the United Church Downtown Mission in Windsor had needed to refinance a mortgage. General Secretary, Nora Sanders, had been

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able to provide the formal approval. She consulted with Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann, to confirm this would be satisfactory. In light of the Transition Commission's support for the Mission when it met there earlier this year, Cheryl-Ann was confident the Executive would want to endorse this.

MOTION: Carey Wagner/ Marie Santos

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council endorse the action of the General Secretary to assist the Downtown Mission of Windsor with the necessary refinancing of their mortgage.

CARRIED

The business of the meeting having been completed, President Joyce declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Meetings:

November 2, 2019: Regional Council, WISH Centre, Chatham

November 21/22: Stone Ridge Inn, meeting of Executives