

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

Thursday, March 19, 2020 1 p.m. via zoom

Roster: Joyce Payne (President), Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Richard Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Lorna Gardner, Deanna Gibson, Louise Hall, Doreen Hewitson, Brenda MacMain, Kenji Marui, Bill Rothernel, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash, Carey Wagner

Staff Support: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister
Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

Present: Joyce Payne (President), Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Elizabeth Dunn, Deanna Gibson, Louise Hall, Doreen Hewitson, Bill Rothernel, Carey Wagner,

Regrets: Richard Dalton, Lorna Gardner, Brenda MacMain, Kenji Marui, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash

Acknowledgement of territory and opening worship: President Joyce

President Joyce acknowledged the territory and shared a reading from Richard Wagemese's, *"Embers"*, page 76.

Welcome and Constitution of Meeting: President Joyce

I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority invested in me by the first meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

Consent Docket

The Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to accept the consent docket.

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. Appoints Agenda and Business Chair (Kenji Marui), Worship leader (Pam Wilcox), Parliamentarian, Secretary for May 2020 meeting to be brought forward.

Cheryl-Ann and President Joyce will follow-up re: finding Parliamentarian and Secretary.

Business Arising

1. Fairmont U.C. – draft agreement with the UCC re: transfer of title.
Cheryl-Ann has had preliminary discussions with General Council Office. The work is ongoing.
2. Short term investments
Doug Cameron reported that because of the present Covid19 situation, it was decided to leave investments in GICs for now.
3. Investment in Leaders Fund
To date, no applications to the Fund have been received.
4. ARW Spring 2021 meeting location
President Joyce will investigate possibilities in Chatham, Windsor, Ridgetown. It was agreed that Unifor Family Education Centre will not be the location for the spring 2021 meeting.

New Business

1. Update on Covid19 actions, including online "Town Hall", March 27, 1 p.m.
Cheryl-Ann provided a quick update, noting that an extensive email newsletter was sent out to all three regional councils providing several links to helpful information, ways to stay connected, notice that the office is closed and staff are working from home, and that a new facebook group has been set up.

The online Town Hall on March 27th will give people an opportunity to connect, raise any practical concerns, ask any questions regarding the current Covid19 situation. Cheryl-Ann suggested our best advice is for people to continue to listen to the province and their local health unit and err on the side of caution.

Appreciation was expressed for the emergency document that was posted on the ARWRC website authored by Bev Oag at GCO.

Cheryl-Ann said she felt that immediate steps have been addressed and there are many next steps to come. One of those next steps is helping ministry personnel think about how they will respond presented with the situation of a death or hospitalization of a community of faith member, and the restrictions placed on funerals. Ministry personnel are working behind the scenes and in front.

Joyce thanked Cheryl-Ann and the staff for all the work they are doing; expressing her deep gratitude to staff and ministry personnel for calming the waters and keeping anxiety low.

Doug Cameron raised the possibility of finances becoming an issue with smaller churches. Cheryl-Ann agreed that it might become an issue – people are being encouraged to mail in donations, use PAR and Canada Helps. She also referenced the Covenant Commission decision to allow communities of faith to access restricted funds if needed in March and April for the purpose of meeting payroll.

2. May meeting – update on considerations to date
Some preliminary planning has been done about what to do if we cannot gather as a large group in May. The UNIFOR site is closed to April 14. After Easter, we will consult with them and make a judgement call; it is anticipated a decision will be made before the end of April. Re: Celebration of Ministries, there are a variety of options to explore. Senator Sinclair's presentation could be done online. One of the benefits of experimenting with the online Town Hall is that it gives us experience in hosting an online meeting for a large group.
3. GC proposal submitted May, 2019 (to WOW)
Cheryl-Ann provided some background on the proposal. The proposal came from Huron Shores United Church and went to Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, who supported it. It has gone on to the General Secretary. One of the things Huron Shores asked was that it be shared with all the regional councils.

Cheryl-Ann added that it is correspondence Executive is receiving and Executive has the choice as to whether or not to do anything further with it. It's not a proposal coming through the system in the way that it is the ARW Executive's work to review as a proposal. It is for Executive's information if interested in doing the same.

There was detailed discussion regarding the proposal and the situation/impetus that led to the crafting of the proposal.

Karlene Brown-Palmer suggested that it would be preferable to come back to this at some point in time in terms of discussing what we believe as a region and what we are requiring of our ministry personnel. She added that the evolving nature of the United Church is one of our strengths, but also one of our weaknesses. If we continue to evolve without any sense of our direction we will lose who we are and that is something as leaders that we have to guard; to ensure we know who we are as the United Church of Canada.

The ARW Executive **agreed by consensus** to receive the Huron Shores United Church proposal as correspondence for information.

4. Financial update – Doug Cameron, Treasurer
The regional council continues to receive monies from various disbanding congregations. Will receive very shortly a final payment from General Council as a result of their assessments, totalling almost \$12,000 this will clear the books for 2019. ARWRC is in decent financial shape. A new financial platform is being developed by GCO which will provide instant access to financial information.

Louise asked if a bank draft from Lambton Presbytery student fund (just over \$2,000) has been received. Cheryl-Ann will check on status.

5. United Church Camps Proposal
Cheryl-Ann referred to the proposal as written and circulated. As stated in the proposal “To create the opportunity for open discussions about the role and the purpose of the camp experience as it relates to the overall mission of the United Church of Canada; to gather financial data and registration statistics to better understand each camp operation; to conduct site tours to learn about each individual camp program; to bring together key players – staff, volunteers and camp leaders – to discuss sustainability”.help the regional council think about how best to offer regional support.

It was suggested that the outcome of this proposal would be to recommend disbandment of some camps. Cheryl-Ann noted that the goal is not to disband camps. The clear outcome is that the regional council doesn't have the capacity to support the number of camps it has. The result won't be whether a camp closes or not, it will be how the regional council determines which camps it will support and to what degree. More about economic viability.

Cheryl-Ann added that one thing to be mindful of is that if camps can't have their season (due to Covid 19 situation), none of them have a sufficient reserve to sustain them. The proposal is about long term viability and giving camps tools to figure some of that out. It's also about recognizing that regional council will have limited capacity to be the financial support of the camps long term. Bring an objective business perspective. Every step of the proposal involves the camps – don't want to have a conversation about them, want to have a conversation with them.

MOVED Carey Wagner/ Doreen Hewitson

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive approve contributing \$3,000.00 from reserves towards the cost of preparing a proposal regarding the sustainability of the camps within the Antler River Watershed geographic area. **CARRIED**

It is hoped results coming from this proposal will be received by the end of the year.

It was noted that a “Plan B” if there is no camp this summer is not in place; it would have to be determined.

Youth Forum leadership team is meeting to make a decision as to whether or not Youth Forum will go ahead.

6. Staff updates

a. Minister, Social Justice position

In-person interviews have been postponed. If necessary, should the Covid19 crisis continue for an extended period, zoom interviews will be held. The search committee has previously met all the candidates in person.

b. Kim Uyede-Kai – resignation received. In terms of that position, it will remain vacant for at least until the fall. The party for Kim and Joan Tuchlinsky has been postponed.

Cheryl-Ann noted the staff support committee has launched well. They have been meeting, met with staff in person, and feel their role becoming clearer for them and staff. Deanna Gibson, an ARW representative on the committee, agreed that it is going well and moving forward.

c. Administrative Assistant, Mission & Hospitality: No change to salary category.

7. Commission Reports

a. Covenant: Met to make the decision re: access to restricted funds

b. Human Resources (Doreen Hewitson): Have established a LLWL resource team. Looking at what to do with the 50 LLWL's that have been licenced and need to be re-licenced. It is anticipated that everyone will be re-licenced this year and then stagger interviews over the next 3 years.

c. Mission & Discipleship (Carey Wagner): Met in February and reviewed requests for funding for various event. It was determined to put a limit of \$1,000 on any requests. Kathy Douglas will be discussing with the other regional councils a fair and equitable way to disperse funds for events.

Cheryl-Ann will provide Carey with amount of monies remaining from Mission Support Grants that the Mission & Discipleship Commission has authority over.

President Joyce closed with another small reading from Richard Wagemes, from "Embers", top of page 76.

Next Executive Meeting: April 8, 2020