

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

Wednesday, April 8, 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, William Rothernel, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash, Carey Wagner

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

Regrets: Karlene Brown-Palmer, Lorna Gardner, Louise Hall, Brenda MacMain, Kenji Marui

Acknowledgement of territory and opening prayer: President Joyce acknowledged the territory and read Mary Oliver's poem "*Gethsemane*". She noted that April 8 is the Day of Pink, a day of action to celebrate diversity while raising greater awareness in stopping all forms of bullying. Executive members were invited to share church and personal updates.

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.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated with additions as noted.
2. That the minutes of the March 19, 2020 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Appointment

That David Hewitson be appointed as one of Antler River Watershed Regional Council's Directors to the Board of Grand River Spiritual and Education Resources. (Note: Doreen Hewitson is the other Director.)

C. Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Omnibus motion – April 8, 2020

MOVED William Rothernel / Diane Skomash

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Executive take the following action:

...approve the Essex Presbytery Development Fund, The United Church of Canada
 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Fred Barkhouse
 Catherine Collins-Barker
 Ronald Cox
 Kim Gilliland
 Elaine Mailloux
 John van Omme

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the supplementary letters patent changing the name of the incorporated ministry known as Essex Presbytery Development Fund, The United Church of Canada to Windsor Essex United Church Development Fund, The United Church of Canada.

These are based on the draft Minutes of EPDF Annual Meeting of June 11, 2019, the 2019 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada incorporated ministries policy.

Business Arising

1. Fairmont title – nothing further to report at this time.
2. Commission reports
 - a. Covenant Commission (Marie Santos): Approved a motion allowing access to restricted funds for ADP payroll. Regular work of the commission, including approving profiles/living faith stories, disbandment, ministry sharing agreement, continues.
 - b. Human Resources Commission (Doreen Hewitson): Licenced Lay Worship Leader resource team has been established. Regular work of the commission continues, including appointment of liaisons, approval of appointments/calls. HR Commission policies are posted on the website.
 - c. Mission & Discipleship Commission: The next meeting of the commission is May 6.
3. Staff Support Committee update (Deanna Gibson)
Diane Matheson-Jimenez, half-time Minister Social Justice, has returned to work. Interviews to fill the vacant half-time position have been put on hold.

Deanna commended the regional council staff for doing a tremendous job working to keep the regional council informed and up to date during the pandemic crisis.

New Business

1. Proposal #1: Regional Council Meetings
(Fall 2020 location info, see CKCC floor plan and email titled: Fwd Fall Conference)
There was some discussion about the celebration of ministries service. It does not have to be held this May, as Cheryl-Ann noted that candidates will be allowed all the privileges of ministry with a provisional call in place.

MOTION Richard Dalton / William Rothernel

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive

- a) Affirms its preference for an in-person meeting in 2020 provided public health guidelines permit;
- b) Extends that in-person meeting from the previously scheduled one day to two days to allow for business and the Celebration of Ministry (see Appendix 1: Draft Agenda)
- c) Changes the date of the meeting from the proposed October 3rd to October 30th-31st in Chatham at the John D. Bradley Convention Centre (only available weekend). **CARRIED**

Cheryl-Ann noted that the May 2021 meeting was not originally planned to be a tri-regional meeting, but many plans have now changed due to the pandemic. Cheryl-Ann has confirmed that the May 2020 guest speaker, Senator Murray Sinclair, would be willing to come in May 2021.

MOTION Carey Wagner / William Rothernel

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive affirms having a tri-regional meeting in Port Elgin, May 2021, with theme speaker, the Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair. **CARRIED**

2. Proposal #2: Government Assistance

The long-term financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the church are not yet fully known. The regional council funding is stable. Governments are establishing programs to provide support for small businesses including not-for-profits like the regional council. However, programs are evolving and it is not yet clear exactly what might be available to the regional council. The goal of the proposal is to provide a means for the regional council to access the assistance without needing to reconvene the Executive.

MOTION Richard Dalton / Doreen Hewitson

Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive authorizes any two of the following three, the President, the Treasurer and the Executive Minister, to apply for government assistance for which the regional council is eligible. **CARRIED**

3. Proposal #3: Fairfield

Antler River Watershed Regional Council remains responsible for the museum and informally indicated an interest in continuing to use the vacant land for a growing project. Now that spring is here some decisions must be made. Cheryl-Ann provided some history and background regarding the museum.

MOTION Doug Cameron / Richard Dalton

Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive affirms

- 1) Closing Fairfield Museum until further notice;
- 2) Reviewing the closure notice at its June meeting and make a further decision then;
- 3) Continuing its remuneration of the Curator, asking that this time be devoted to cataloguing the collection **CARRIED**

MOTION Doreen Hewitson / Diane Skomash

Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive directs the Executive Minister to discover if the farmer who managed last year's growing project is interested and, if so, determine if the regional council can enter into a land rental agreement for the cost of property taxes. **CARRIED**

Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive **agrees by consensus** to direct the President and Executive Minister to follow up on the transfer agreement offered to Chief and Council.

4. Staff Support Committee Mandate: for endorsement and to add as an appendix to governance handbook.

MOTION Diane Skomash / William Rothernel

Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive endorses the Staff Support Committee Mandate and directs that it be added as an appendix to the Governance Handbook. **CARRIED**

5. Social Media Guidelines

Staff adapted and revamped guidelines originally developed by Hamilton Conference – not a national policy. Primarily for newly established regional council Facebook groups.

MOTION Carey Wagner / Elizabeth Dunn

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive adopt the Social Media Guidelines document. **CARRIED**

6. Executive Minister's Accountability Report (for information)

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive **agrees** by consensus to receive the Executive Minister's Accountability Report for information.

7. Denominational loan program/finances 2020

For information: a denominational loan program is being established. An approval process and application are being developed by regional council staff in support of congregations and other eligible ministries. The application will require submission of a recent annual report and financial viability worksheet.

The maximum amount available: \$10,000. The denomination is borrowing \$7 million to establish this program. Cheryl-Ann said it is important to remember this is a debt being incurred by the denomination. The Covenant Commission will have the responsibility of reviewing the loan applications and making decisions.

Finances

Cheryl-Ann said by the fall the regional council will know more as to how cuts to the General Council budget will look and what it will mean for us. At this particular time, the cut to the ARWRC budget sits in mission and service funds. Cheryl-Ann is confident the funds cut will not be more

than 20% and noted we will carry forward mission and service savings in salaries. She advised, however, that there should not be a rush to create new staff positions until the regional council can see what the 2021 budget looks like.

8. Concern and support for communities of faith

There are a lot of options for an initial wave of relief. Cheryl-Ann referenced the grants from the federal government and the denominational loan program. A regional council loan program might be an option, but Cheryl-Ann suggested that at this time, while worth considering, it would be advisable to see how other things roll out and revisit this possibility in May. The Executive agreed with this approach.

President Joyce will do an Easter message to the regional council.

President Joyce closed the meeting with a short reading from Mary Oliver's *Book of Devotions*, the poem "Praying".

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, May 13th, 1 p.m. via zoom call