

Antler River Watershed Regional Council

OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the WISH Centre, 177 King Street East, Chatham, ON.

Introduction & Call to Order

President Joyce Payne opened the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority invested in her by Antler River Watershed Regional Council, calling the meeting of Antler River Watershed Regional Council to order for whatever business may properly come before it.

Opening worship

The worship team led opening worship with communion.

Community Building

An Antler River Watershed themed Jeopardy game was held to build community and further knowledge of the regional council. The game was hosted by Bruce Cook, with contestants Robin Sherman, Doug Peck, and Pam Wilcox, scorekeeper Sue Duliban, and judge C-A Stadelbauer-Sampa.

Introduction of Joan Tuchlinsky

John Brown, a member of the interview team for the Minister, Social Justice position, introduced Joan Tuchlinsky, the successful candidate for the position. Joan spoke briefly regarding the importance of the appropriate use of gender identity.

Regional Council Commissions Overview

Joyce Payne invited each of the commissions to present a brief overview of their work.

Mission & Discipleship Commission Chair Robin Sherman invited the group to let the commission know what areas they are passionate about and if they would like to participate in resource pools. She invited Commission members to stand.

Covenant Commission Chair Marie Santos urged the group to look at the ARWRC website, highlighted the role of resource pool companions and outlined meeting dates and deadlines for material. Attendees were encouraged to complete the ARW Covenant Commission information sheets supplied to each table.

Doreen Hewitson, Human Resources Commission liaison to the Executive, spoke on behalf of Chair Olav Kitchen who could not be at the meeting. The commission has been working intently on developing policies. ChurchHub is now working quite well – Doreen noted that all ministry personnel should be on ChurchHub and need to keep their profile updated. She added that as of Nov. 1, records of call or appointment can now be done online.

Proposal #1 Consent Docket**MOVED** Colin Swan/ **SECONDED** Mary Anne Silverthorn

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council:

- 1) Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Business and Agenda Committee to make any changes as necessary;
- 2) Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;
- 3) Name President Joyce Payne, Parliamentarian Brad Morrison, and Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa as the Business Committee;
- 4) Set the bounds of the meeting as the gym of the W.I.S.H. Centre, 177 King Street East, Chatham;
- 5) Make all guests corresponding members;
- 6) Accept the registration as the roll of this meeting;
- 7) Elect Brenda MacMain, minister of St. Clair United Church, as the Indigenous representative to the Executive.

CARRIED**Proposal #2 Election of General Council Commissioners**

Kenji Marui spoke to this proposal outlining the process for election of General Council Commissioners from the Antler River Watershed Regional Council (ARWRC). It was noted that the regional council will elect 13 Commissioners to attend the 44th General Council July 21-25, 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. The regional council President who is elected in 2020 and installed in 2021 will also attend.

There was some discussion regarding the proposal; including questioning if there was a reason why "deaf" was singled out. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa noted that the Executive worked from categories previously received from General Council, but that the regional council could choose to make changes. Joe Richards suggested that a representative from a camping ministry be included as part of the first round of voting.

AMENDMENT MOVED Brenda MacMain / **SECONDED** Susan Cameron

Proposal #2

A) 4) be amended to read: One Commissioner who identifies as racialized or differently abled

That the following be added:

A) 5) One Commissioner who is a camp ministry representative **AMENDMENT CARRIED****MOVED** Kenji Marui / **SECONDED** Doreen Hewitson

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council (ARWRC) adopt the process (Proposal #2) to elect General Council 44 commissioners as amended:

- A) Have an initial round of voting to elect the following:
 - 1) Two Indigenous Commissioners
The process to secure nominations for these positions to be determined in consultation with Indigenous ministries.
 - 2) One Youth Commissioner (Under 19 years)
 - 3) One Young Adult Commissioner (19-30 years)
 - 4) One Commissioner who identifies as racialized or differently abled
 - 5) One Commissioner who is a camp ministry representative.
- B) Have a second round of voting to elect the balance of Commissioners. Any positions not filled in the first round will be filled by the second. Any nominees not elected in the first round will be on the ballot for the second round.

CARRIED

(Lunch break for 45 minutes)

Proposal #3 Financial Matters: Management of Restricted Gifts

Doug Cameron (Treasurer) spoke to this proposal, noting that the regional council has received designated funds from certain of the presbyteries and conferences that preceded it. These funds are to be administered by the regional council for the purpose identified by the donor.

Joyce Payne asked if there were any questions of clarification; several points were raised including queries around the possibility of utilizing funds for a different purpose, the merging of funds, the distribution of funds to camps, should latitude be given to executive.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa noted that the regional council is obligated by the terms with which restricted funds are received.

MOVED Doug Cameron / **SECONDED** Diane Skomash

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council accept Proposal #3 as written:

In order to establish a consistent practice across the regional council, the regional council directs the Executive:

- 1) To consolidate funds from separate donors intended to fulfill the same purpose.
- 2) To determine how to administer the funds entrusted if a plan for administration was not included to honour the stated purpose of the fund and to benefit the entire regional council;
- 3) When in place, to publish the terms for each fund and the fund application process on the regional council website.

AMENDMENT MOVED John Goudy / **SECONDED** Curtis Marwood

That Proposal #3 1) be amended to read

To consolidate funds from separate donors intended *to support youth ministry, camping ministry and youth ministry leadership.*

AMENDMENT DEFEATED

MOTION CARRIED

Proposal #4 Financial Matters: Unrestricted Funds

Doug Cameron presented the information on unrestricted funds, noting that the regional council is the beneficiary of funds from certain of the presbyteries and London Conference that preceded it. These funds are unrestricted and can be used as the regional council determines.

MOVED Doug Cameron / **SECONDED** Carey Wagner

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council accept Proposal #4 as printed and adopt the following recommendations of the Executive:

- 1) To establish an operational reserve of \$200,000.
- 2) To draw \$35,000 from the unrestricted reserve in 2020 to:
 - a) Provide each Commission with a budget of up to \$10,000 per year to offer events or to engage in programs of its choosing;
 - b) Provide \$5,000 to cover any honoraria offered to Officers of the regional council.
- 3) To cover the costs associated with any emerging situation, such as an investigation or review, from the reserve;

- 4) To set aside up to \$30,000 for 2020 as an investment in leaders fund with the terms to be established by the Executive so that the funds can be available to support lay members and ministry personnel to participate in learning opportunities and to provide for leadership development and for skill development. **CARRIED**

Proposal #5 Financial Matters: Operating Budget

Doug Cameron then presented the year-to-date (October 31, 2019) financial statements and the proposed budget for 2020. It was noted that the Transition Commission was responsible for the initial budget of the regional council. In order to maximize the availability of specialized staff, it committed to work in partnership with Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and Horseshoe Falls Regional Council to share staff for a period of three years at which point the arrangement will be evaluated.

Doug Cameron said that the 2019 budget was based on costs available from 2017-2018 and estimates of expenses. The 2020 budget is based on actual salary figures as anticipated and reflects the costs incurred this year with an increase of 3%.

Joyce Payne asked if there were any questions of clarification; some questions were asked for understanding of some line items and clarity was provided.

A concern was raised about funding for camping ministries. The Mission & Discipleship Commission will be advised to flag this concern and discuss with camping ministries.

MOVED Doug Cameron / **SECONDED** Tom Brunt

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the 2019 Operating Statement as at October 31, 2019 for information. **CARRIED**

MOVED Doug Cameron / **SECONDED** Betty Jean Page

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council adopt the 2020 Operating Budget as printed. **CARRIED**

MOVED Doug Cameron / **SECONDED** Eric Skillings

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council appoint the General Council auditors, PWC, to perform the 2019 audit of Antler River Watershed Regional Council. **CARRIED**

Affirming Network

Kenji Marui took the chair, so that Joyce Payne could provide an update on the Affirming Network.

Joyce provide a brief summary of the Affirming Network and a few of its activities undertaken since the May meeting. The network is working hard on an official action plan and there will be an update on that early in the new year. The nationwide Affirm Network meeting will be held in London, Ontario in July 2020 at First St. Andrew's (coinciding with London's Pride Parade). All are encouraged to consider attending that event. Any questions, contact Joyce or Michelle Down at First St. Andrew's.

Kenji Marui surrendered the chair.

Covenant with Communities of Faith update

Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support and Mission, shared a powerpoint presentation providing an overview of several aspects of the community of faith covenant with the regional council (a covenant template was provided with the meeting workbook). Lynne also outlined some of the details regarding the community of faith profile worksheets and Living Faith Story, as well as the annual self-assessment checklist. She emphasized that the Covenant Commission is there to help you with questions/resources.

MOVED Doug Wright / **SECONDED** Carey Wagner

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council appoint Louise Hall to be the regional representative at the covenanting service for Dr. Brad Morrison. **CARRIED**

Announcements

- 1) Invitation to attend *Revision, Renew Event* was extended to the group by Richard Golden. Further information, email randigolden@xplornet.ca
- 2) **Directory:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa asked that communities of faith and ministry personnel check the accuracy of their information on ChurchHub, so that a regional council directory can be compiled from that data in the new year.
- 3) **Current Events:** Cheryl-Ann said that the Executive will be considering options so that news/upcoming events (such as celebration of life, covenanting services) can be shared throughout the regional council. Ideas welcome.

Closing Motion

MOVED Linda Britten / **SECONDED** Tom Brunt

That the responsibilities and authority of Antler River Watershed Regional Council be entrusted to its Executive and Commissions in accordance with *The Manual 2019* of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED**

Closing Worship

The agenda having been completed, the meeting concluded and the worship team closed the day's proceedings with worship.