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| [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/3ca6c136875a/regional-council-meeting-highlights?e=%5bUNIQID%5d)Next Deadline for submissions: October 23[Forward this to a friend to sign up for this newsletter.](https://arwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b&id=afa2614952) |

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| ****Regional Council Meeting Highlights!********October 29 – November 1, 2020**** |

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| Hello Delegates!    These highlights are prepared to help representatives share the story of the regional council meeting with their home community of faith! Make plans now to update your community of faith at the first opportunity! |

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| **Thank You President Joyce Payne**The close of the Celebration of Ministry service marked the end of President Joyce’s term. She advised the Executive earlier this year that she would be concluding her term before its spring 2021 ending due to moving outside the regional council. When Joyce let her name stand for the office of President-Elect of London Conference in 2016, she had no idea she was starting a four-year plus journey! She graciously extended her term as President when the date for restructuring was set. Then she chaired the Transition Commission from June 2018 to the regional council meeting in May 2019. At that time, she let her name stand as President once more. That makes her unique among church leaders willing to shepherd this significant structural change. The consistency she brought to this role was a blessing. Add to that her personal commitment to seek reconciliation and her themes that each called us to serve faithfully in our local context and we have been led by one who lives her faith. You will be missed President Joyce. We say goodbye with heavy hearts and thank you with grateful ones! |
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| **Welcome President Jane Van Patter**How did new President Jane Van Patter celebrate her first day of retirement from pastoral ministry? By offering to lead a bigger parish! Thank you, Jane, for offering yourself as a nominee for President. We look forward to your leadership. |

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| **Thank you, and you and you!**We also thank Karlene Brown-Palmer for letting her name stand as a nominee for President. We were blessed with Karlene’s leadership as our theological reflector and benefitted from her gift of placing the work we were doing in the framework of our calling to be the church.**Equity Monitor**Thank you also to Equity Monitor, Michiko Bown-Kai. This is our first experience of having an Equity Monitor, someone whose role is to help us identify when the privilege some of us enjoy without thinking is standing in the way of the participation of those who do not share it. In their time, Michiko highlighted topics such as the importance of pronouns (She/Her, He/Him, They/Them) and the value of righteous anger.**Pronouns**Many, many thanks to the members of the regional council who added their pronouns (She/Her, He/Him, They/Them) when they introduced themselves! This is one way to embrace our Affirming mandate! **Worship Team**We are grateful to the team of Beth Parsons and Pam Wilcox who opened each session with inspiring worship and showed us how to incorporate video in seamless ways! |

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| **DECISIONS**We thank Agenda and Business Chair, Kenji Marui, for his assistance in our business proceedings. |

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| **Affirm** |

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| Antler River Watershed is an Affirming regional council! The decision to adopt the Action Plan was passed by a majority of more than 95%! Many thanks to the tri-regional Affirming Network who prepared the material and led the presentation. Now we focus on how we live into this plan as a regional council ensuring that sexual orientation or gender identity are not barriers to participation |

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| **Remit**The regional council endorsed the proposed change to Section 10 of Polity in the Basis of Union to replace the words “men and women” to read: “The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities”.https://mcusercontent.com/3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b/images/92c966b9-f7d2-4348-9ff2-f1db7955fc26.pngThe pre-meeting webinar, [**Affirming Our Communities, Affirming Our Faith**](https://youtu.be/ICeiHo2O2Bc), can be found on the regional council’s YouTube channel. The webinar focuses on the distinction between sexual orientation and gender identity. Sexual orientation is who one finds attractive; gender identity is how one sees oneself. |

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| The Social Justice Network, a gathering of people from across the regional council who share a commitment to social justice, presented a proposal raising two issues: communication and the connection between a network and the regional council. The matter was referred to the Executive. |

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| **Finances**Thanks to Treasurer, Doug Cameron, who reviewed 2019 and shared the principles behind the 2021 budget that was adopted. In 2021, the regional council will use reserve funds to invest in ministry. It is anticipated that the reserves will increase by a similar amount through the regional council’s interest income and share in the legacy of disbanding congregations.Additionally, in the [**pre-meeting financial webinar**](https://youtu.be/GTgMBc5-mJI), also found on the YouTube channel, funds have been established for specific purposes. This information will soon be added to the website with grants available by 2021. |

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| **CELEBRATIONS**The regional council had the privilege of commissioning: |

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| **Christina Crawford and Barbara McGill** |

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| The regional council had the privilege of admitting: |

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| **George Rowaan** |

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| in a [**Celebration of Ministry service**](https://youtu.be/4f4EMoZCAzQ) (now on YouTube) service hosted by Grace United Church, Sarnia. Grace was also home for President Joyce Payne, Agenda and Business Chair, Kenji Marui, Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, and Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa throughout the meeting. Many, many thanks to Pat Morrison, one of the ministers at Grace, for his invaluable assistance with technical support. Grace’s Music Director, Glenn Parsons, along with Beth Parsons, enriched worship with their talents. The congregation’s gracious hospitality was much appreciated. Thanks also to Louise Hall who organized catering at the church for meals and to Pauline who provided the meals. The catering costs help support the local Breakfast for Learning program.  |

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| **We give thanks for the dedicated service of the following retirees:** |

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| **John Van Omme, Jill Rogers, and Bonnie Pilkey** |

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| The candidates, admittand and retirees were celebrated with video clips and PowerPoint presentations. |

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| **Jubilands are those celebrating 50 years or more since the date of their ordination. We honour the lifetime of service given by:**50 Years: **David McKane, Kenneth Jackson and John Palmer**55 Years: **William Stephenson, Kenneth Thomson**60 Years: ***Arthur Woitte*** |

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| **We give thanks for those who have joined the Executive & Commissions:** |

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| Executive: ***Kenji Marui*** |

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| Covenant Commission: ***Jeffery Smith, Louise Hall, David Whiting*** |

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| Mission and Discipleship Commission: ***Linda Badke, Tabitha Carey***There are still vacancies on the Commissions. If the presentation from these Commissions interested you, please submit an [**Expression of Interest**](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/arw_expression_of_interest) form to go before the Executive.  |

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| **Remembering**With thanksgiving for the ministry they offered and for the witness they provided, the regional council remembered these ministers:  |

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| **Bojeong Kim, Clyde Westhaver, Christian Kraatz,Joyce McManus, Gord Pickell, Herb Summers, Lloyd Brown,Gordon Geiger, Connie Ellis and Don Bardwell** |

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| and these congregations: |

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| ***Appin United Church, Curries United Church,Eastwood United Church, Fairmont United Church, London (building repurposed with Metropolitan United Church),Oxford Centre United Church, St. Paul’s United Church, Windsor,Zion United Church, of the Rural Pastoral Charge*** |

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| **So Glad We Had This Time Together!** |

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| Thank you to all who attended. For each of the five business sessions, over 150 people were present. Thank you for this generous gift of your time and for the blessing of your wisdom. It was a joy to be together!  |

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| **Mission & Service is Up To Us** |

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| Thank-you for your offering, made at the Celebration of Ministry on Sunday, November 1 as part of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Meeting. The offering will go to [**Mission & Service**](http://www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca/), making possible even more programs and activities to transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. |

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| https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/video_thumbnails_new/4f4849b87eb2fc25c704b8d108c07f95.png |
| Mission & Service is Up To Us (that's you and me) |

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| If you were not able to offer your gift during the Celebration of Ministry, you may still do so here [**https://www.united-church.ca/donate**](https://www.united-church.ca/donate). |

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| **Let’s do this again!**As instructed, the Executive will plan a spring meeting. At this point, it appears that it will need to be a virtual meeting. Please be sure to send in your [**Feedback Form**](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/arw_feedback_form) so we can incorporate your insights (also found on the Regional Council Meeting page). Mark your calendars now for **May 28, 2021** when the **Hon. Senator Murray Sinclair** will be meeting with Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils with a focus on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to the Church! |

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| Blessings,https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/images/bb2bd43a-a575-48d7-8e56-38150fe4299d.pngExecutive Minister, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (she/her) |

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| The Antler River Watershed Regional Council newsletter welcomes submissions of upcoming events, regional news and educational opportunities. This is also the place to keep up-to-date on information from the regional office. |

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| Holding and EncouragingCommunities of Faith Antler River Watershed Regional CouncilThe United Church of Canada |

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| [Sign up for our newsletters](https://arwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b&id=afa2614952). |

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| **For information, contact Pretima:**pkukadia@united-church.ca**Our phone number is:**1-833-236-0280**Our mailing address is:**Antler River Watershed Regional Council, UCCPO Box 100Carlisle, On L0R 1H0Canada[Add us to your address book](https://arwrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/vcard?u=ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b&id=afa2614952)Copyright © 2020 Antler River Watershed Regional Council, UCC, All rights reserved. |

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