

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 2 pm 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), Richard Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Deanna Gibson, Louise Hall, Doreen Hewitson, Kenji Marui, Bill Rothernel, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash, Carey Wagner

Regrets: Lorna Gardner, Brenda MacMain

Acknowledgement of territory and opening prayer: President Joyce shared a prayer and a reading from Mary Oliver, *Why I Wake Early*.

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

Any of the following matters that require discussion can be lifted from the consent docket and voted upon separately.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Leaders Fund Application for approval (Received from K. Kimber)

The ARW Executive **agreed by consensus** to accept the consent docket.

Business Arising

1. Commission reports
 - a) Covenant (Marie Santos). The commission is reviewing their report for the fall meeting. Discussing sending an information package out to communities of faith at the end of November. The commission agreed to extend the use by communities of faith of restricted funds to the end of December, 2020.

The commission has been reviewing and discussing the Tech hub proposal, including discussion of the rental of equipment. Marie Santos presented the following motion made by the Covenant Commission.

The Covenant Commission would move that the Executive designate \$5000 in the budget for 2021 to help out congregations in ARWRC wanting to try the Rural Connect system.

- b) Human Resources (Doreen Hewitson) The commission continues its ongoing pastoral relations work. Thirty-one LLWLs have been interviewed and renewed for various terms. The commission is starting to promote the United Fresh Start program.
- c) Mission & Discipleship (Carey Wagner) The primary focus of the commission currently is M&S grants work.

2. Planning for the Regional Council Meeting

- a) Plans to date
Draft agenda circulated and planning team met last week. Weekly planning meetings are being held.
- b) Insights from GC Commissioners to note for electronic meeting (for info)
Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa briefly reviewed the document. She noted that Kenji Marui not only helped facilitate the discussion, but the idea of providing this opportunity originated with him and his work was most appreciated.
- c) Planning and update re BLM. Commitment to diversity in both leadership and nominations – Proposal #2

Diane Skomash reminded the executive that they agreed to take the racial justice course together.

The regional council Executive ***agreed by consensus***

- 1) To recruit an outside person to function as an Equity Monitor in this role for the fall 2020 regional council meeting;
- 2) To provide a limited position description for 2020
- 3) To meet with the Equity Monitor after the regional council meeting for feedback on the meeting;
- 4) To seek the Equity Monitor's assistance to develop a position description for this role in future.

After some discussion, including discussion regarding the role of the position and the position name, the executive agreed to trust President Joyce and the planning team to enact the proposal.

- d) Action Plan for Affirming Ministry (received for information)

There was discussion regarding the low number of expressions of interest submitted. Karlene Brown-Palmer suggested calling regional council members and asking them if they have considered where they could serve. Cheryl-Ann suggested dividing up the list of registrants for executive members to contact.

Fairfield Update

Cheryl-Ann noted that she and President Joyce were able to meet with Chief Denise. Lease agreements for land, water rights are in hands of Delaware Council and the Chief is going to try to move forward as quickly as possible, hopefully by the end of November.

Fairmont Update

John Sanders is working on the GCO memorandum of understanding on the regional council's behalf.

3. Financial Update

a) Detailed Narrative Budget 2021 YTD / Budget principles proposal – Proposal #1

The ARW Executive **agreed** to entrust the Treasurer and Executive Minister with determining the final draft 2021 budget to be presented at the regional council meeting based upon these principles:

- 1) Maintain current meeting and travel budgets
- 2) Provide 2% increase for cost of office and building operations
- 3) Reflect accurate staff costs
- 4) Determine affordable and essential staff complement
- 5) As much as possible, protect Mission and Service Grant recipients

The amount made available to the Mission and Discipleship Committee for distribution as Mission Support grants and other Mission and Service grants for 2021 will be: \$160,000 drawn from the 2021 grant and unspent 2020 surplus. (In 2019 and 2020 \$165,000 was available.)

The ARW Executive **agreed by consensus** to authorize the Covenant Commission's budget designation request to designate \$5000 in the budget for 2021 to help out congregations in ARWRC wanting to try the Rural Connect system.

The 2021 budget will increase to \$15,000 in the covenant commission line, Cheryl-Ann noted. Doug Cameron praised UCC Finance Manager, Bob Savaria's exemplary work. Cheryl-Ann added that all three regional council treasurers have done an excellent job.

b) Support for staff working from home – Proposal #4

MOVED Doreen Hewitson / Bill Rothernel

The ARW Executive endorses the action of the Executive Minister in providing staff with an allowance of up to \$750 per person to secure items necessary for an effective and efficient home office space. All purchases of equipment/furniture will be the property of the regional council. Following the depreciation period, staff are invited to make a donation to a UCC charitable organization of their choice should they wish to keep the equipment/furniture. **CARRIED**

5 Minute Break

- c) Legacy funds proposal – Proposal #3 (Appendix 1 attached to minutes)
MOVED Louise Hall / Bill Rothernel
That the ARW Executive accept Proposal #3 as amended. **CARRIED**

New Business

1. Investment in Leaders Fund application (for review/approval) max \$500
MOVED Doreen Hewitson / Kenji Marui
ARW Executive approves the Investment in Leaders Fund application for \$500 submitted by Karlene Kimber. **CARRIED**
2. Executive Minister's Accountability Report – September 2020 (for information)
3. GCO Travel and meeting restrictions (for information and to share with Commissions and consider as direction for liaisons, etc.)

As this was President Joyce's final executive meeting, the ARW Executive expressed its thanks and appreciation for her dedicated service to the regional council and wished her well as she embarks on her new journey in Kingston with Michelle.

Next Meeting: Dec. 9