

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

7 pm, Wednesday, January 13, 2021 via zoom

Roster: Jane Van Patter (President), Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Richard Auckland, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Richard Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Lorna Gardner, Deanna Gibson, Doreen Hewitson, Brenda MacMain, Kenji Marui, Bill Rothernel, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash

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

Present: Jane Van Patter (President), Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Richard Auckland, Richard Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Lorna Gardner, Deanna Gibson, Kenji Marui, Bill Rothernel, Marie Santos, Diane Skomash

Regrets: Doreen Hewitson

Welcome and Constitute Meeting (President Jane): I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, as the one true head of the Church and by the authority vested in me by the first meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

Acknowledging the Land (President Jane)

Opening Worship (President Jane): President Jane offered a reflection based on a photograph of a sculpture of a tree with roots exposed; as a metaphor of the UCC.

Opening Agreements

1. Consent Docket
 - A. Enabling Actions
 1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
 2. That the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting be approved as distributed.
 3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.
 4. Corresponding members: The ARWRC Executive agrees to receive Pegi Ridout as a corresponding member to this meeting.
 - B. Investment in Leaders Fund
 1. Update date in Fund application from 2020 to 2021.

MOTION Richard Auckland / Kenji Marui

Acceptance of the Consent Docket. **MOTION CARRIED**

Business Arising

1. Commission Reports
 - 1.1. Covenant Commission (Marie Santos): New members were welcomed. Ongoing, regular work of the commission continues. Extended the use of restricted funds until June 30, 2021. Also passed a motion allowing congregations to have their budget approved by the governing body. An annual meeting/annual report info pack mailing was sent to all communities of faith in December.

- 1.2. Human Resources Commission: no report
- 1.3. Mission & Discipleship Commission (Richard Auckland): Written report submitted.
2. Financial update (Doug Cameron, Cheryl-Ann)
2019 financial reports ready to be submitted and will be submitted with 2020 reports. All funds from former London Conference been received. Will be putting in 500,000 (monies from London Conference and former presbyteries) in investments shortly. Remaining monies be invested once 2020 audit completed.
3. Web resources: in progress. Cheryl-Ann noted that at the last executive direction was given to add grant fund info/application to the website.
4. Fairmont memorandum of agreement (for information) The Executive approved a draft at last meeting, with a few minor editorial changes. The agreement is now signed and the transfer is taken care of.
5. Fairfield update (Cheryl-Ann). In discussion with Chief Stonefish; need to confirm still working towards January 29th date. Leaving agreement being prepared for the Fairfield employee. A payout will be included out of respect for his years of service. Agreement to be finalized once timing agreed upon. Monies will come out of Fairfield.
6. Meeting dates: continue with current arrangement? Second Wednesday of each month, 6-8 pm

Continuing Priorities & Future Discussion Items

1. Affirm Action Plan8 - **8:45 How to move from Action Plan to action. What part does Executive play?** (facilitated by Pegi Ridout, Affirm Network)
Pegi Ridout, of the Affirm Network, facilitated a discussion with the Executive, re: how to move from Action Plan to action. What part does Executive play?

In breakout rooms and all together, Executive discussed
What is our unique work?

- What needs to be done now?
- What do we need to be the catalyst for? With whom? (e.g. Commissions?)

Possible next steps suggested:

- Hire an equity monitor for executive meetings.
- Use safe spaces for meetings
- Encouraging our communities to be on board and equity monitor
- Clarity on the role and function of pronouns (What do they mean exactly? How do they make space safer?)
- Clarify roles of equity monitor
- Reviewing policies and actions of the regional council
Work of the executive to review policies of the regional council
- Encourage communities of faith, when affirming or becoming affirming, to look at partners in their building. Are they affirming?

Cheryl-Ann noted that Adele Halliday, newly appointed as the denominational office's Anti-Racism and Equity Officer, is doing work on the equity monitor position and that will be a starting point for the executives.

Pegi suggested that the executive put dedicated time on their agenda to talk about pronouns. As executive, Pegi added, it is helpful to have the conversations and then be able to reply to people's questions; modelling yourselves, walking the talk.

President Jane referred the executive to Tim Reaburn's presentation on pronouns during the October Affirm workshop (available on the ARW YouTube channel). Also helpful, fall meeting Equity Monitor Michiko Bown-Kai's video: <https://michikobownkai.wixsite.com/ministry/pronouns>

Cheryl-Ann noted that the regional council actually has very limited policies at this point. She raised that the regional council made a commitment to diversity through nominations (which is the work of executive) and has fallen short. How are we ensuring diverse voices come to the table?

Executive agreed to read the Governance Handbook for the next meeting, as background for further discussion.

2. Anti-Racism

2.1. Racial Justice Training: February

Executive and members of each of the three commissions (in all three regional councils) to participate in racial justice training. The new racial justice program includes 4 sessions: awareness, knowledge, capacity building, action. Cheryl-Ann has confirmed that there are enough people for sessions together on our own with the cost covered by the regional councils.

Suggested time frame: all four sessions with regional council leadership involved, over a six-month period. Some discussion about timing.

Executive **agreed** by consensus that there is value in participating in all four racial justice training sessions with the involvement of regional council leadership. Ideally by April, 2021.

2.2. BLM

Adele Halliday hopes to bring forward a course of action to the executive and also have a discussion with all three regional council executives. Possible February date to be determined.

3. Evaluating work against ARWRC purpose statement

Next meeting Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6-8 pm

January 13, 2021

ARW Executive 21-59