

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

ARW Executive Meeting
February 10, 2021, 6 pm, via Zoom

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

Regrets: Bill Rothernel

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)

The theme for worship: Black History Month. President Jane shared a reading from a piece in the London Free Press by Carl Cadogan, chair of the London Black History Co-ordinating Committee, *Until Black history is acknowledged, Black History Month events will continue*. She also quoted from *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman, and closed with a prayer by Lydia Smith.

Opening Agreements

Consent Docket

MOTION Diane Skomash / Elizabeth Dunn

Acceptance of the Consent Docket.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Thank you note (Nancy Vanderburghe)
2. Thank you card (Tanya Cameron)
3. Equity Monitor update (Adele Halliday)

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising

1. Commission Reports
 - 1.1 Covenant Commission (Marie Santos): Regular business of the commission continues. The commission is also discussing remuneration for pastoral charge supervisors.
 - 1.2 Human Resources Commission (Doreen Hewitson): The commission is working with several churches with vacancies. The commission is also having discussion around how to hold covenanting services for new ministers during the pandemic.
 - 1.3 Mission & Discipleship Commission: The commission next meets March 2nd.

Noted: UCW Tri Regional gathering to talk about racial diversity, "A Step Toward Diversity" on Saturday, February 20th, 2021 @10:00 am. Leadership: Rev. Stephanie McClellan, Rev. Sandra Bendall, and Rev. Thérèse Samuel, new ARW Minister, Social Justice.

2. Fairfield Agreement (Cheryl-Ann)

A draft agreement has been prepared.

MOTION Kenji Marui / Doug Cameron
That Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive accept the terms of the *Agreement for Transfer of Lands and Premises*, subject to General Council agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

Question was asked: would it be possible to contact families who donated artefacts to the Fairfield Museum, if those artefacts are not wanted by Chatham Kent Museum. Cheryl-Ann said such a protocol would be difficult to manage; there was no catalogue of the collection until one was established this past summer and there is not the capacity to request that the donor be honoured. It was agreed that this option not be pursued.

Continuing Priorities & Future Discussion Items

1. Equity Monitor

The executive was referred to the update email outlining the initiative underway from Adele Halliday, Anti-Racism and Equity Officer for the UCC.
2. Affirm
 - 1.1. Pronouns (video)

Tim Reaburn's video presentation made during the Affirm webinar in the fall was shown.

Discussion followed. Cheryl-Ann noted the bigger question is how do we live in a place where respect congregational freedom, and yet nurture congregational understanding of broader justice. Karlene asked, how do we help our congregations to grasp what it is we want them to understand. We have to become practical, be proactive to help people understand, find dynamic ways to help people understand. Goal of region should be targeted learning. President Jane added that executive needs to take more time to work on getting the conversation going.

Kenji mentioned an issue in Sarnia/Lambton, regarding a petition circulated with 169 signatures, calling on the federal government to amend or withdraw Bill C-6, purporting to be supported by a majority of the churches in the riding. While the Bill has passed second reading and is in the Senate, Kenji said it has been an upsetting and concerning situation. President

Jane will write a pastoral note to the United Churches in Sarnia/Lambton and will reach out to Adam Kilner.

Diane Skomash noted that the Affirm Network will hold a shared tri-regional celebration of the affirming of ARW, HF & WOW regional councils on June 6th. Diane will advise the Network to connect with the regional council presidents, as they will need to be involved.

3. Anti-Racism

1.2. Racial Justice Training

Dates for the 4 modules are March 3, March 17, April 7, April 21. Evening sessions for regional council executives and commissions. Details, including the structure of the sessions, will be forwarded shortly.

4. Regional Council Meetings: 2021 planning holding and encouraging communities of faith

- Fall dates? Still to be determined. Note: General Council meets Oct. 23
Priorities for June meeting/what work needs to be done/how much time should be set aside? Still to be determined.

Brenda shared her hope that the June meeting would include some truth and reconciliation work, following on Senator Sinclair's talk.

Upcoming event dates:

Senator Sinclair: May 28 (tri-regional)

Affirm celebration: June 6 (tri-regional)

ARW regional council meeting: June 12

Cheryl-Ann suggested the executive think about June priorities, etc., so that they can come to their next meeting with a clear idea. Also suggested that President Jane work with a small group to do some initial agenda planning for June.

President Jane added that all presidents and presidents-elect will be meeting with Michael Blair on February 23rd. One of the items on the agenda, how we are encouraging diversity – input from executive can be emailed to Jane. President Jane added that she will share a link to a presentation of a Canadian version of Handel's Messiah, celebrating Canadian diversity, which she found really compelling.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 6pm via zoom with a 10-minute break at 7pm