

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

March 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

Present: Jane Van Patter (President), Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Richard Auckland, Richard Dalton, Elizabeth Dunn, Doreen Hewitson, Kenji Marui, Bill Rothernel, Marie Santos

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

Regrets: Deanna Gibson, Brenda MacMain

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 Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

Acknowledging the Land (President Jane)

Opening Worship

President Jane reflected on the year since the pandemic started, based on the shortest Scripture, John 11:35. A candle was lit and followed by a moment of silence and prayer.

Checking In: Follow-up conversation to Racial Justice Training - Session 1

What has stayed with you? What are some of the takeaways that can be applied to our work as an Executive and the work of the Regional Council as a whole?

A summary of comments follows:

So many dates didn't know about, something never learned in school, but should have.

How current some of the dates are.

Going through the privilege checklist and getting a score.

Learned a lot, confirmed a need to continue to learn.

How much time lost to racism.

How to keep it present without being all consuming.

During the conversation, a recent lived experience was shared, an experience that emphasized lived reality, daily walk.

Whatever follows from the racial justice training will have to be a lived experience.

There was more listening to presenter than talking.

Cheryl-Ann will share some of the feedback with the presenters and copy to executive members who had a particular concern.

Arising from this discussion, a suggestion that the use of breakout rooms be considered carefully for the spring regional council meeting. That they not be used just because they are available.

Opening Agreements

Consent Docket

MOTION Doreen Hewitson / Marie Santos

Acceptance of the Consent Docket.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Broadview – regional council report proposal (for information) **MOTION CARRIED**

Business Arising

1. Commission Reports

1.1 Covenant Commission (Marie Santos): Discussion about pastoral charge supervisors payments/guidelines. Two members of the commission will take part in a tri-regional task group addressing this issue. Thinking of noting property transactions in newsletter. Lynne Allin is thinking of creating some webinars addressing common faqs.

1.2 Human Resources Commission (Doreen Hewitson): Interviewing more LLWLs, new and renewals. ARWRC has about 20 open positions at this time.

1.3 Mission & Discipleship Commission (written report submitted by Richard Auckland). Richard highlighted a couple points from the report.

- “crazy” has a negative or traumatizing effect on some due to its connection with mental health, use alternate words
- Can be leaders in selection of wording, pronouns
- Hiring of an equity monitor is something that will help us flag practices/wording that may need to be changed.

New Business

1. Staff Topics

Proposal 1: Updated position descriptions

Proposal 1 Attachments: Position descriptions for Minister, Congregational Support and Mission, Minister, Faith Formation, Minister, Pastoral Relations

Question about clergy residence deduction, not in the revised position description. Cheryl-Ann said it can still be claimed, GCO did not put it in the template.

MOTION Kenji Marui / Doreen Hewitson

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive approve the attached position descriptions for the:

- 1) Minister, Congregational Support and Mission
- 2) Minister, Faith Formation and
- 3) Minister, Pastoral Relations

effective immediately and advise the Executive Minister to forward a copy of same to General Council Human Resources. **MOTION CARRIED**

Proposal 2: Sabbatical Plan, including Sabbatical Proposal presented by Kathy Douglas, Minister, Faith Formation

MOTION Richard Auckland / Karlene Brown-Palmer

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive approve the Sabbatical Proposal presented by Minister, Faith Formation, Kathy Douglas and authorize her sabbatical leave from May 17-August 13, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED

Proposal 3: Authority for position description updates

MOTION Kenji Marui / Richard Auckland

That the Antler River Watershed Executive agrees to authorize the Executive Minister to consult with the staff involved and the Staff Support Committee to make updates to Position Descriptions that do not change the key purpose of the role, or the terms of the position. Any change, other than editorial, in purpose, duties, hours or category would continue to require Executive approval. Any revisions to be reported to Executive for information.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Executive Minister Accountability Report March 2021. Received for information.
3. Assessments after 2021: For information. Cheryl-Ann reviewed a PowerPoint presentation summarizing key points relating to assessments after 2021. While the Executive will not be making a decision about this, the topic will be on the agenda and has potential impact for the regional council.

It was agreed that the executive should begin messaging/informing congregations about the potential impact of increased assessments, remind them of the conversations from three years ago. Cheryl-Ann advised waiting until it is known what the implementation plan is going to be. By the June meeting it will be known. Agreed this issue be on the June meeting agenda. Perhaps pair a speaker with a presentation at the meeting.

Continuing Priorities

1. Regional Council Meetings: Planning team update

June 2021 Regional Meeting Planning Team (initial group): President Jane, Kenji Marui, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Louise Hall, Mark Marshall, and waiting to hear back from music people.

Location: Westminster, Thamesford.

Theme: Who Do We Say We Are (Jesus to Peter)... Who do You say That We Are) Who are we? Are we who we say we are? (we say we're welcoming, are we?).

Moved and motivated by Jesus' saying to Peter, "On this rock I will build my church" - we continue being the church during pandemic times, celebrating diversity and working toward anti racism.

President Jane will be using the visual - tree roots clinging to a rock and wind (Spirit) blowing through trees shown during January executive meeting.

Theme Hymn: Spirit God, Be Our Breath (MV 150).

When the team meets we will focus on making time for following up on current concerns like Murray Sinclair's address, re: Truth & Reconciliation, Celebrating Affirming Regional Councils, Racial Justice Training, and acknowledging the transfer of the Fairfield Museum to the Delaware Moravian First Nation. Will also be building in worship time and hopefully some making connections time.

Theme: Stay Calm and Rock On

- Spring meeting: additional days? This will be discussed at the planning team meeting on March 24.

- Fall dates? Note: General Council meets Oct. 23. It was agreed to hold the fall regional council meeting on October 30, 2021.

Cheryl-Ann suggested that the planning team consider planning the spring and fall meetings as companion pieces.

2. Save the date (For information)

- Racial Justice Training next sessions: March 17, April 7, April 21
- May 28 (tri-regional) Senator Murray Sinclair
- June 6 (tri-regional) Affirm service of celebration

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6pm (no meeting in May)