

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

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**Place/Time:** Zoom Call 9:00 a.m.

**Roster:** Marie Santos (L, Chair), Deb Ellacott (L), Jim Evans (OM), Adam Kilner (OM), Andi McKillop (L), Mark Perry (OM), Jeff Smith (OM), Dave Whiting (L)

**Staff Support:** Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Admin Assistant, PKukadia@united-church.ca  
Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support & Mission, LAllin@united-church.ca

**Present:** Marie Santos, Deb Ellacott, Adam Kilner, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Jeff Smith, Jane Van Patter, Dave Whiting, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia-Kinting

**Regrets:** Jim Evans

**Absent:**

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** The meeting was constituted and opened by Marie Santos.

**Acknowledging the Land:** Territorial lands are acknowledged on behalf of the Covenant Commission by Marie Santos:

We are gathered this morning on traditional lands. We recognize and deeply appreciate the historic connection to this ground we share. We also recognize the contributions of the Metis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made to our country. As settlers, this recognition must be clearly connected to our commitment to make the promise and the challenge of the Truth and Reconciliation real in the communities in which we live and worship. We are grateful to the Creator for this time and this place.

**Opening Worship:** Andi McKillop spoke on Easter Saturday. We are in the waiting period where we don't know yet, we do not yet have the sense of hope of Easter Sunday, the risen Christ. We are almost on the other side. Almost ready to share the good news.

**Opening Motions:**

**Corresponding Member(s):**

**MOTION** by Andi McKillop / Mark Perry that Jane Van Patter, President, and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister (available as needed), be accepted as a corresponding member of the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION** by Mark Perry / Jeff Smith that the agenda be accepted as amended with additions to

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

**MOTION** by Dave Whiting / Jeff Smith that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of 03-03-2021 as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Mark Perry / Jeff Smith that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of 03-17-2021 as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Deb Ellacott / Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the minutes of 03-31-2021 as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising:**

**New Business:**

1. Staff Report: Lynne Allin

Property Matters in newsletter in June – all things property. Right now, we have Faithful Footprints, green church, will ask GCO insurance people re appraisals and premiums, board of trustees. Please suggest further property topics, for e.g., modernization for audio/visual, wi-fi.

There do not seem to be any ‘downtimes’ for communities of faith.

2. Executive Report: Marie Santos

Racial Justice training third one tonight and last one in two weeks.

The June 12<sup>th</sup> regional council meeting? Please submit a video report to go out ahead of the meeting. Only current issues to go to the meeting.

Dates for upcoming regional council meetings: Senator Sinclair May 28, Affirm Celebration June 6<sup>th</sup> and Regional Council Meeting June 12<sup>th</sup>. Fall regional meeting October 30.

Position description will be reworded to be anti-racist and non-denominational and this can be done without coming back to the commission.

3. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

**MOTION** by Mark Perry / Jeff Smith that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council appoint Mary Anne Silverthorn as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Norwich United Church for April 7, 2021.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

4. Profiles and Living Faith Stories

**MOTION** by Dave Whiting / Deb Ellacott that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for Lambeth United Church for the purpose of beginning the search process for ministry personnel full-time up to category F.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Jeff Smith / Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia for the purpose of beginning the search process for ministry personnel full-time up to category C.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Deb Ellacott / Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the profile and living faith story for Wesley-Knox United Church, London for the purpose of beginning the search process for ministry personnel for 30-40 hrs per week up to category F, with the recommendation that they consider a stewardship campaign to assist with balancing their budget.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Other Business:**

5. **MOTION** by Andi McKillop / Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the governance model for Dundas Street Centre United Church, London conditional on the addition of the regional representative(s) to the unified board and changing the name of the Committee of Trustees to 'Board of Trustees'.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

6. **MOTION** by Deb Ellacott / Jeff Smith that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the request from Leamington United Church to access \$23,618.05 from funds restricted by presbytery/regional council to pay a bill from the municipality related to water and sewer upgrades.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Note: recent financial viability worksheet is available as background.

7. Discussion Topic

- Review of Amalgamation Agreement and Constitution for Dunlop and Central United Churches, Sarnia  
Concerns to be addressed before it is presented to the congregation?  
How will the two congregations nest together in a pandemic?  
How is the meeting to be held, set for April 21?  
How will materials be disbursed?  
Are all voices being heard?  
Chair and designate of committees must be elected by congregation.  
Mandates for committees must be approved by council or congregation.  
All restricted funds must remain restricted.
- What do we do about use of restricted funds after June 2021? More communities of faith are using this as payroll than have reported this. No sure of government subsidies.
- Paying of Pastoral Charge Supervisors. Asking all congregations to pay full assessment, may be onerous to pay Supervisors as well. We could ask for a lower pay to ease into paying of Pastoral Charge Supervisors. Some congregations have had supervisors for 15 years.

**Next Meeting:** May 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

**Worship by:** Marie Santos

**MOTION** that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.