

Antler River Watershed Regional Council
June 2021 Virtual Meeting

June 2021 Regional Council Meeting

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet on Thursday June 10, Friday June 11 and Saturday June 12, 2021 online via Zoom, with approximately 155 people in attendance each day.

Thursday June 10 7 – 9:30 PM

Welcome

President Jane Van Patter welcomed all to the June 2021 meeting of Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

Lighting of the Flame Pot and Constitution of Meeting

President Jane opened the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority vested in her by Antler River Watershed Regional Council, and called the meeting of Antler River Watershed Regional Council to order for whatever business may properly come before it.

Land Acknowledgement & Introduction of Indigenous Community (President Jane)

President Jane invited those present to acknowledge where they are in the chat.

For thousands of years First Nations people have walked this land. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and their spirituality, from where I am presiding we are gathered on the traditional and sacred territory of the Attiwonderon, the Anishinabe, and the Haudenosaunee peoples. We acknowledge and give thanks for their stewardship of this land throughout the ages and we recognize their sacrifice of these lands for our unearned gain. We commit to a mutual sharing of the stewardship of the land and recognize that we are equal partners in Treaty 3 of 1792, the Land between the Lakes Treaty.

Video about Walpole Island was shared.

Honouring 215 children in Kamloops & remembering the Muslim family in London

Leading into worship, President Jane, encouraged the group and their community of faith as a show of solidarity and support, if have not already done so, to donate \$215 to the Healing Fund of the United Church of Canada.

President Jane shared a prayer by Reverend Murray Pruden, Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries and Justice, UCC and lit candles as a way of honouring the Muslim family who died in London, the victims of a hate crime.

Worship with Communion, with a reflection offered by President Jane, introducing her theme *Keep Calm and Rock On*.

President Jane shared the Affirm certificate presented virtually at the Affirming service on June 6th recognizing that ARWRC is an affirming region of the UCC. She then read aloud the Affirming statement and thanked all who worked hard to bring the regional council to this place.

Safety, sanctuary, unconditional love: striving to be faithful followers of Jesus in our time and place, Antler River Watershed Regional Council will continue to remove barriers to participation in the life and work of the Regional Council and society committing ourselves to be open to the spirit resisting all forms of oppression. We welcome and celebrate people have any sexual orientation and gender identity and all others who are marginalized.

The meeting leadership team was introduced
Marcie Gibson: Equity Support Team Member
Brad Morrison: Parliamentarian
Kevin Steeper & Melanie Kirk-Hall: Chaplains
Kenji Marui: Agenda & Business Chair
President Jane Van Patter
Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister
Sue Duliban, Minutes Secretary
Tech Lead: John Neff
Staff Tech assistance: Ruthanna Mack, Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Sue Duliban

The worship team was introduced
Karlene Brown-Palmer - worship
Mark Marshall - music & worship, tenor
Elizabeth Marshall - technical support
Cheryl Marshall - piano
Joel Wallman - guitar, electric guitar, mandolin, bass
Lydia Marshall - violin, soprano
Gavin Marshall – drums & “house of cards” animation
Kenji Marui - prayer
Pretima Kukadia-Kinting - prayer
Jacquie McLeod - poem
Charmain Foutner - solo
Westminster Choir - anthem - Tom Brown, Wendy Brown, Cathy Cannon, Michelle Connors, Donna Franklin, Joan Houston, Kate Lockhart, Dean Morris, Eric Oostenbrug
Children’s Time - Jaden Mallette, Caleb Marshall, Dominic Marshall, & Nathan Marshall

Minister Social Justice, Diane Matheson-Jimenez shared BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety and closed with prayer.

We strive, in this time of co-learning, to be brave by...

B – being accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence

R – reflecting on and naming our own biases

A – actively listening

V – vocalizing questions that arise from our learning

E – encountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder

Proposal #1 – Opening & Procedural Motions

Moved: Kenji Marui / Seconded: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Antler River Regional Council adopts the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Business and Agenda Committee to make any changes as necessary;
2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2020-10-29 to 11-01;
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
i. Executive

2021-03-10

2021-02-10

2021-01-13

2020-12-09

2020-09-16

2020-09-15

ii. Covenant Commission

2021-04-07

2021-03-31

2021-03-17

2021-03-03

2021-02-03

2021-01-06

2020-12-02

2021-11-04

2020-10-07

iii. Human Resources Commission

2021-04-13

2021-03-09

2021-02-09

2021-01-12

2020-12-08

2020-11-10

2020-10-13

iv. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2021-04-06

2021-03-02

2020-12-15

2020-09-17

2020-09-15

for information.

Note: Minutes are posted on the website www.arwrucc.ca "About" page

4. Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;

5. Name President Jane Van Patter, Agenda and Business Chair, Kenji Marui, Parliamentarian, Brad Morrison, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;

6. Name regional council staff members John Neff, Sue Duliban, Pretima Kukadia-Kinting and Ruthanna Mack as scrutineers;

7. Name Marcie Gibson as Equity Support Team Member;

8. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call;

9. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c);

10. Receive regrets from Lynne Allin;

11. Make all guests corresponding members;

12. Set the deadline for nominations for General Council Commissioners as midnight, Thursday, June 10, 2021;

13. Set the deadline for Expressions of Interest for Regional Council Executive and Commission members as 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2021;

14. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 6:00 p.m., Friday, June 11, 2021.

15. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council

Step One:

- A) What is the issue? And
- B) The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process. **CARRIED**

A short video introducing the regional council staff was shared.

Community Building: Pam Wilcox

Pam Wilcox invited discussion around a number of questions:

Name all the commissions and their chairs – who was successful?

How easy is it for you to ignore the Regional Council and the Commissions and the greater United Church of Canada as you go about your church life? Part two of that is: Have you or your congregation ever had to work with the regional council or its Commissions and what was that experience like and would you hope it to be different?

Participants were asked to talk in their breakout rooms about intentional ways that communities of faith can reach out to another United Church community of faith.

Suggestions for follow-up: Intentionally reach out to the nearest United Church geographically to your community of faith. Reach out and start a friendly dialogue, maybe you're already pals. Maybe you don't really know much about each other at all, but learn about them and encourage them and their ministry, and maybe do this once a month for a little while and who knows, you might even build the community. Then you can invite another church that's nearby to join that group and that's how clusters are formed, and then you may find yourself with a common mission, and a purpose.

Moderator's Message

A video address by the Right Reverend Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, was presented.

GC44 Commissioners

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided an outline of the process of electing GC Commissioners and a reminder of the deadline for nominations.

Equity Reflection: Marcie Gibson introduced herself and explained her role and what is equity (renamed as equity first).

Theological Reflection by Brad Morrison, closing worship and prayer and the extinguishing of the Flame Pot ended the evening.

Friday June 11 2 pm – 4 pm

Welcome, Flame Pot Lighting, Music and Worship

President Jane and the worship team.

Land Acknowledgement

President Jane invited those present to share the treaty number related to the land where you are and to give some description of that in the chat.

Greetings from Indigenous Community

Janice Rising and her daughter, Lareina, brought greetings from St. Clair United Church on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation and talked about what it means to be treaty people.

MOTION

Moved: Kenji Marui, Seconded: Brad Morrison

That the deadline for acceptance of GC44 Commissioner nominations be extended to 6 PM, Friday, June 11, 2021. **CARRIED**

Racial Justice Presentation/Community Engagement

Thérèse Samuel, Kenji Marui, and Diane Matheson-Jimenez, shared a video drawing parallels between clothing that no longer fits and anti-oppression ideologies and strategies that are no longer valuable. Just as it is important from time to time to examine what we are needlessly holding on to in our homes, we must similarly critically analyze the tools in our anti-racism toolkits and update as required.

Following the video, the council was invited into breakout groups to talk about the anti-racism strategies they have used, or seen used, that are no longer valuable.

In the second portion of the workshop, the facilitators hosted a panelist conversation on the notion of getting out of race/racism for free. Each speaker shared life experience and then invited the council to reflect on what their experience of race or racism has been.

The session ended with a time of prayer centered on the theme of 'today I ask God for...', and 'today I give God thanks for...'

Equity Reflection

Marcie reflected on equity, and the gift of being able to take the time for it; also the gift of being able to be on zoom and be live in the here and the now in real time. She also voiced her discomfort with the video shown earlier in the day, a tour of Walpole Island, and her feeling that it was not what she expected to hear.

Theological Reflection shared by Judith Fayter; closing worship and prayer and the extinguishing of the Flame Pot ended the day.

Reminder of the Multi Faith March to End Hatred, London at 7 pm.

Saturday June 12 9:30 AM – 12 NOON

Welcome

President Jane shared that it was amazing and inspiring to see so many people gather in support of the Muslim community and to be gathered for the remarks at the mosque, following the March to End Hate last evening in London.

Flame Pot Lighting & Worship

President Jane and the worship team

Land Acknowledgement

President Jane invited those present to enter into the chat, the Indigenous community nearest them.

Greetings from Indigenous Community

Eileen and Grafton Anton brought greetings from Oneida United Church.

GC44 Commissioner Vote: First Ballot

Young Adult Commissioner (1)

Brie Wohlers, Lay

Mallory Brennan, Lay

Rebecca Whiting, Lay

Sydney Walker, Lay

Racialized or Differently Abled (1)

Tabitha Carey, Lay

Kenji Marui, Ministry Personnel

Camp Ministry (1)

Shane McDowell, Lay

Mallory Brennan, Lay

Listening to Voices from the Indigenous Church

Elders Grafton and Eileen Antone shared teachings and experiences, and provided space for leaders from Indigenous Communities of Faith to share if they wished. Leaders from Indigenous churches of Walpole Island UC (Bkejwanong), St. Clair UC (Aamjiwnaang), and Kettle and Stony Point UC, as well as Grafton and Eileen Antone from Oneida UC, shared history and perspective from their experience as part of the Indigenous churches that were important for the rest of the church to hear. The sharing was closed with the singing of Jesus Loves Me by a child member of one of the Indigenous churches.

Equity Reflection from Marcie Gibson and Theological Reflection by Bonnie Pilkey closed the morning session, along with worship.

Saturday June 12 1:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Welcome and Worship

President Jane and the worship team

Land Acknowledgement

President Jane invited those present to enter into the name of an indigenous artist, musician, or author into the chat.

Greetings from Indigenous Community

Anna Batton and Sharon King brought greetings from Kettle and Stoney Point.

Executive & Commissioners Vote

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to serve on Executive and Commissions.

The following were acclaimed to their role by the President.

Executive

Richard Dalton

Brenda MacMain

William Rothernel

Covenant Commission

Jim Evans, OM

Andi McKillop

Greg Simpson, DLM

Human Resources Commission

Norm MacPherson

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Mission & Discipleship Commission

Cheryl Bolton, OM

Glenda McMillan

Honouring Jubilands & Anniversaries, In Memoriams (since our last gathering), Community of Faith Amalgamation

The following Jubilands' lifetime of service was honoured through a video presentation.

50 Years

Wib Dawson, OM

Joseph Driskill, OM

55 Years

John Brown, OM

T. Ross Williams, OM

60 Years

J. Bruce Small, OM

61+ Years

William Ferrier, OM

Donald Hansford, OM

Douglas Ross, OM

R. Edward Sam, OM

Arthur Woitte, OM

65 Years

Norman Jones, OM

D. Blain Thierry, OM

69 Years

Lewis Snow, OM

70 Years

Douglas Greenough, OM

The regional council celebrated the amalgamation of Dunlop United Church and Central United Church, Sarnia.

In Memoriam

With thanksgiving for the ministry they offered and for the witness they provided, the regional council remembered these ministers with a video presentation

Rev. Marilyn Leslie Carter, OM

Rev. Carmen Joseph Holbrough, OM

Rev. Marjorie J. Smith, OM

Rev. Dr. Donald Alexander Wright, Capt. (Ret'd), OM, PhD

Staff Support Committee Message

A video message from chair John Gregory Smith, thanking regional council staff, was shared.

GC44 Commissioners First Ballot Results

Results of the vote were announced by President Jane:

Young Adult Commissioner

Rebecca Whiting, Lay

Racialized or Differently Abled

Kenji Marui, MP

Camp Ministry

Shane McDowell, Lay

It was brought to the attention of the court that Lauri Ladd's name was inadvertently left off the first ballot, under Camping Ministry.

MOTION

Moved: Bruce Cook, Seconded: Pam Wilcox

That the GC44 Commissioner first ballot vote be redone.

A member of Central United Church, St. Thomas, spoke to the motion, noting that she was the person who encouraged Lauri Ladd to put her name forward. While an active supporter of Pearce Williams, Lauri is not on the board, and the Central UC member said she could confidently say that she and Lauri Ladd would be comfortable with Lauri's name not being included in the camping group and moving forward from here.

MOTION DEFEATED.

MOTION

Moved: Kenji Marui, Seconded: Mary Anne Silverthorn

That the order of the day be extended to 3:45 pm. **CARRIED**

GC44 Commissioners Vote: Second Ballot

Lay

Richard Auckland

Elizabeth Dunn

Louise Hall

Glenda McMillan

William Rothernel

Dr. JoAnn Silcox

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Diane Skomash

Pat Whitton

Tracy Wygiera

Brie Wohlers

Sydney Walker

Lauri Ladd

Mallory Brennan

Tabitha Carey

Ministry Personnel

Gabrielle Heidinger

Olav Kitchen

Pirie Mitchell
Wendy Noble
Colin Swan
Pamela Wilcox

Closing Motions

Moved: Kenji Marui, Seconded: Brad Morrison

That Antler River Waterways Regional Council

1. Entrusts any unfinished business from its June 10-12, 2021 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorizes the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting;
3. Directs the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2021; and
4. Entrusts the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Antler River Watershed Regional Council in accordance with the Manual of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council.
5. Closes this meeting of Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the end of worship the afternoon of Saturday, June 12, 2021. **CARRIED**

Courtesies

Louise Hall thanked President Jane for reminding the gathering about the rock on which we are grounded and for her calm leadership.

GC44 Commissioners Second Ballot Results

Results of the vote were announced by President Jane.

GC44 ARWRC Commissioners

1. Richard Auckland
2. Mallory Brennan
3. Tabitha Carey
4. Gabrielle Heidinger
5. Olav Kitchen
6. Kenji Marui
7. Shane McDowell
8. Wendy Noble
9. Dr. Jo Ann Silcox
10. Mary Anne Silverthorn
11. Colin Swan
12. Jane Van Patter
13. Rebecca Whiting
14. Pamela Wilcox

The meeting closed with a final Equity Reflection from Marcie Gibson, Closing Worship and the Extinguishing of the Flame Pot and a Benediction from President Jane.

Meeting Adjourned