

Covenant Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith
Minutes of Meeting of October 6, 2021

Place/Time: Zoom Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Roster: Marie Santos (L, Chair), Jim Evans (OM), Adam Kilner (OM), Andi McKillop (L), Mark Perry (OM), Greg Simpson (DLM), Jeffrey Smith (OM), Dave Whiting (L)

Staff Support: Rev. Judith Fayter, Minister, Congregational Support & Mission, jfayter@united-church.ca, Linda Gray, Contract Admin Assistant

Present: Marie Santos, Jim Evans, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Greg Simpson, Jeffrey Smith, Dave Whiting, Judith Fayter, Linda Gray

Regrets:

Absent: Adam Kilner

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: Jim Evans presented worship. Jim shared from lectionary Mark 10: 17-22. The only time that Jesus says he loves somebody. The contrast between Jesus and the one he is in contact with. Jim led in prayer.

Corresponding Member(s):

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Mark Perry that Linda Gray be made a corresponding member for the time of her contract with Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

MOTION

CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Jeff Smith/ Greg Simpson that the agenda be accepted as circulated

MOTION

CARRIED

Consent Docket:

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of May 5, 2021, June 2, 2021, July 7, 2021, August 4, 2021, and September 1, 2021 be accepted as circulated and amended.

2. **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**

- a. Appoint Mark Perry as pastoral charge supervisor for Wesley Knox United Church, London, effective October 6, 2021.
- b. Appoint Greg Simpson as pastoral charge supervisor for Trinity United Church, Glencoe, effective September 15, 2021.
- c. Appoint Jeffrey Smith as pastoral charge supervisor College Avenue United Church, Woodstock, effective January 1, 2022.

3. **Community of Faith Profiles** to be received with thanks

<u>Peace United Church</u>	<u>Central United Windsor Living Faith only</u>
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MOTION by Mark Perry/ Jeff Smith that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

1. **Revised Disbanding Disbursement Document: Zion United Church** – Rural Pastoral Charge

MOTION by Jeff Smith/ Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the revised Disbanding Disbursement Document.

MOTION

CARRIED

2. **Request to Disband: North Nissouri United Church**

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Greg Simpson that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request of North Nissouri United to disband with the final service to be held on November 28, 2021.

MOTION

CARRIED

3. **Use of Restricted funds: Wellburn Pastoral Charge**

MOTION by Jeff Smith/ Greg Simpson that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request of **Wellburn Pastoral Charge** to use \$10,662.00 from their restricted funds to pay their assessments for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

MOTION

CARRIED

Other Business:**4. Reports**

Executive Report: Marie Santos reported approval of Lambton board of directors, Fairfield legal transfer is complete, final agreement has been sent to the curator, waiting for that to be returned. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa has provided template for reports at annual meeting. Admin Assistant for website was a limited contract changed to permanent staff person. Budget will reflect virtual meetings. Operating expenses increased 2%. Salaries will increase with cost of living. Expenses under Section J will be funded from the Unrestricted Operating Reserve.

Worshipping communities have been exempted from the vaccine passport. The legal advice of that the regional council has received to date is that communities of faith do not have grounds to request this information. Privacy legislation protects medical information and there has been no provincial action mandating such information be shared in a community of faith. External groups using facilities should be asked for their Covid protocols and proof of additional insured.

Annual Meeting Celebration of Ministry Service will be held at Byron UC, London on Saturday, October 30 at 7 pm. with Michael Blair as guest speaker. Jeff asked for emails re annual meeting invitation and information. First meeting is next week for Western Ontario Waterways and their stuff just came out. Antler River will come out in a week or so before the meeting.

Greg Simpson reported on discussions between Trinity Glencoe and St. John's Anglican. Greg supplied here so he knows quite a few of the people, and knew everyone in the room when they met together which he found very helpful. The idea of the two congregations coming together is a natural fit as they have a long-term deep connection. Conversation is moving gently with a lovely amount of grace. Lovely to see the relationships. They know there is a way to do this and make it official. Marie thanked Greg for all his work. It is exciting!

Annual Report Reviews – Marie Santos confirmed that when Commissioners finish the reviews, send the review to her, and she will enter them into the excel spreadsheet. Hope to be done by the end of November. Understandable that there is lots of stuff going on in life. Jeff Smith asked if there were other congregations that put projections for income in their budgets. Some do, some don't. Perhaps it should be included.

Judith Fayter suggested that perhaps a reminder for annual reports in the newsletter should go out for 2022.

Judith let the Commission know she will continue as Congregational Support Minister until March 2022.

5. Discussion:

Lost Connections between congregations and leadership: Meet your neighbours Sundays

Judith Fayter led this discussion and has noticed that we don't have connection anymore and suggested that the Commission could have some conversations in the New Year as to what we can do to encourage connections... What does the Regional rep do. Perhaps give suggestions to Executive. Need more companions. Honouraria for pastoral charge supervisor? There are some issues. Want to be inclusive, not exclusive.

We are all unique. Lay led congregations, what do we do with them. Pastoral Charge supervisor is there until hire a minister. Example of what Greg is working on with Trinity Glencoe working together with St. John's Anglican.

Presentation to Fall Regional Meeting: Possible ideas

Marie Santos led this discussion. What do you know and find interesting that you would not know if not on the Commission? Do you want to feature something about the Community of Faith profiles or about the covenant with the Regional Council? Do you want to feature unique situations such as in Glencoe? Do you want to raise up the topic of small congregations without and unlikely ever to have a minister and our plans to talk with them-- once we have a full and stable staff complement again. Maybe you want to ask about input for paying pastoral charge supervisors.

Keep Calm and Rock On is the theme for the annual meeting. Commission to do a video to engage the Regional Council in our work is to share our Celebrations and Challenges. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa gave Marie some suggestions for topics. Judith Fayter raised up about pastoral charge supervisor. Judith noted that we approved ministry sharing with congregations in two different regions, amalgamation in Sarnia could be some suggested highlights.

Mark Perry noted that Union in Dorchester are doing two half time positions with one minister. They are using technology so they get worship full time. Central and First in St. Thomas. Jim thinks the ways that congregations have risen to the occasion during through the pandemic.... Applaud our Communities of Faith, boards, lay leadership, clergy. We have done amazing things through very complicated times. Some congregations have reach out afar now, that we would never have dreamed of. Video celebrates and thanks people. Suggest be shown to the congregations during their worship services. Surviving and thriving... Greg Simpson volunteered to edit the worship. Nine faces of the Commission say some of the celebrations.... Marie clarified to send to Greg's dropbox and see what we end

up with. The written notes should be sent to Judith and then a compilation to go to Marie and they will pull it together.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Mark Perry

Chair, Marie Santos noted that she appreciated the laughter the group could have during these hard two years and thanked everyone. As the agenda was complete Marie adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.