

Covenant Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith
November 3, 2021 Minutes

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), Jeff Smith (OM), David 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, David Whiting, Judith Fayter, Linda Gray

Regrets: Jeff Smith

Absent: Adam Kilner

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Chair, Marie Santos let the Commission members know that Jeff Smith has resigned from the Commission, but is still willing to be a pastoral charge supervisor. 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: Mark Perry presented worship. He explained that it is the Anniversary service for Union United Church this Sunday and the guest speaker is The Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa with her sermon title Truth or Dare and Mark wondered where this would lead to. Mark read 1 Kings 17:8-16 from this week's lectionary. Mark noted from the passage that there was just enough oil and meal for the woman and child until Elijah came along. He wondered if many of our churches are like this, waiting for an Elijah to come and he left the group wondering about that. He then led the group in prayer.

Approval of Agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Jim Evans that the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Consent Docket:

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of October 6, 2021 be accepted as circulated.
2. **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**
 - a. Appoint Jim Stirling as pastoral charge supervisor for Sprucedale / Providence Pastoral Charge, Chatham, effective October 13, 2021.
 - b. Appoint Paul Vollick as pastoral charge supervisor Ilderton Pastoral Charge effective November 3, 2021.
3. **Annual Reports** – there is an Excel file, please review with checks

The Covenant Commission receives the following communities of faith 2020 annual reports with thanks:

First Pastoral United, St. Thomas	
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MOTION by Dave Whiting/ Jim Evans that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business:

1. **Browns United Church (Wellburn Pastoral Charge)** –

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Financial Viability report and Financial statement with thanks of Browns United Church (Wellburn Pastoral Charge) and approve the request to seek a part-time appointment, 10 hours per week, up to Category F.

MOTION

CARRIED

2. **Property Transaction: Oxford Centre United Church**

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to listing the property of Oxford Centre United Church for the sum of \$300,000.00 in accordance with the listing agreement with Hewitt Janscar Realty and the conditions set out in Schedule B attached to it.

MOTION

CARRIED

3. Disbanding: Vanneck United Church

MOTION by Dave Whiting/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the disbanding date of December 31, 2021 for Vanneck United Church and approve the Asset Disbursal of net funds as requested by the community of faith.

MOTION

CARRIED

4. Disbanding: West Lorne United Church

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Jim Evans that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the disbanding date of December 31, 2021 West Lorne United Church, their financial dealings being completed by that date.

MOTION

CARRIED

5. Pleasantville Cemetery, Curries United Church

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council recognizes the protracted negotiations between the Trustees of Curries United Church, the Executive Minister and the Township of Norwich concerning Pleasant View Cemetery and confirms the terms of the agreement that:

The care and maintenance fund (\$56,420.44 December 31, 2020) will be increased to \$75,000 from the proceeds of the congregation to be directed to the Township allowing for the orderly transfer of the cemetery to the Township out of respect for our ancestors.

The Covenant Commission also confirms that it understands this additional payment as a closing cost to be deducted from the total proceeds before they are divided according to the regional council property policy.

MOTION

CARRIED

6. Use of Restricted funds Sprucedale United Church

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the report of the use of restricted funds by Sprucedale United Church.

MOTION

CARRIED

7. Use of Restricted funds New Vision Pastoral Charge

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Greg Simpson that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council recognize the use of restricted funds from the sale of Grace United Church by New Vision Pastoral Charge in St Thomas in the amount of \$18,814 for purchasing a new furnace boiler in September 2021.

MOTION

CARRIED

One abstention.

Other Business:

Reports

Executive Report: Marie Santos reported that there had not been an October meeting but the Executive approved the following by email:

- a. The mandate of Oxford Legacy Fund Committee was extended by one year (to December 2022).
- b. Approved the request to fund two initiatives around Ecotheology for a total of \$950.00 (down from the original \$1050.00).
- c. Feedback for annual meeting – three from the commission did not receive invitations. In person appreciated, but understand. Perhaps do Regional Meetings together with three regions and break out time for separate regions.

Discussion:

Covenanting Services

1. Wabash United Church – September 26, 2021 by Judith Fayter
2. Bothwell United Church – October 17, 2021 by Judith Fayter
3. Calvary United Church, London – November 7, 2021 by liaison
4. Dorchester United Church – November 14, 2021 by Beth
5. Emmanuel United Church, Windsor - Robin Sherman date to be determined

Companion for Guilds Pastoral Charge for Amalgamation between Ridge and New Scotland (congregations of the pastoral charge) – requesting someone close geographically but doesn't have a close association with Guilds Pastoral Charge nor nearby congregation to avoid a conflict of interest. If anyone has suggestions, please let Judith know.

Updates from Judith Fayter

John Neff has prepared a pastoral charge supervisor fillable form for pastoral charges to complete and send to us to keep updated.

Self-Assessment paper forms have not been completed. They are in the tool kit, but now a fillable form has been created to use.

Promotion and Communication needs to happen to be clear that it is work the first time, but then just updates, so less work the next time. Maybe Greg and Judith could do a video to explain it, as it is overwhelming. The reason why is very helpful and they could be excited by it.

Digital annual reports need to be sent to Judith as well. Further to discussion last month about budgets in annual reports. It could be called a plan.

November 3, 2021

CC 21-48

Regional meeting reminder that there is going to be a formal review in 2022 of the restructuring and how it is working.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Dave Whiting

As the agenda was complete, Chair, Marie Santos adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.