

Covenant Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith
December 1, 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, Mark Perry, Greg Simpson, David Whiting, Judith Fayter, Linda Gray

Regrets: Andi McKillop

Absent: Adam Kilner

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: The meeting was constituted and opened by Chair, 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: Dave Whiting presented worship. Monica Oneida, Munsei/Delaware regarding Winter Solstice Indigenous understanding of the solstice. Dave reflected on the Christian view on Advent. We participate in the Mystery itself. We are a part of the story.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Greg Simpson that the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Consent Docket:

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of November 3, 2021 be accepted as amended.

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Greg Simpson that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED.

New Business:

1. **College Avenue United Church, Woodstock**

MOTION by Greg Simpson/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith profiles of College Avenue United Church, Woodstock, and approve the request to seek a call or appointment for 40 hours per week up to Category D.

MOTION

CARRIED.

2. **First United Church, St. Thomas**

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith profiles First United Church, St. Thomas and approve the request to seek a call or appointment for 40 hours per week up to Category F.

MOTION

CARRIED.

3. **Melville United Church of Ivan Pastoral Charge and Ilderton United Church**

MOTION by Dave Whiting/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approves the Shared Ministry Agreement and the request of Ivan Pastoral Charge (Melville United) and Ilderton Pastoral Charge to seek an appointment for a student minister, at 40 hours per week; 20 hours to be served at Ivan Pastoral Charge (Melville United) and 20 hours at Ilderton United Church, according to the terms of the Shared Ministry Agreement, as agreed by both pastoral charges.

MOTION

CARRIED.

Discussion took place with regards to this motion and Judith Fayter will follow up with Diane Blanchard, staff person for the Human Resources Commission.

4. **Shiloh-Inwood United Church**

MOTION by Greg Simpson/ Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the request of Shiloh-Inwood to seek a part time appointment, 10 hours per week, up to Category F.

MOTION

CARRIED.

5. **Disbanding: Fourth Line United Church, Cedar Springs Pastoral Charge**

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request of Fourth Line United Church to disband, with an effective date to be determined as soon as the property is sold and all financial and administrative matters are resolved.

MOTION

CARRIED.

MOTION by Greg Simpson/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request of Fourth Line United Church (Cedar Springs Pastoral Charge) to list the church property for sale according to the policies of Antler River Watershed Region and The United Church of Canada.

MOTION

CARRIED.

6. **Property Transaction: Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge**

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent

to the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Part Lot 13, Concession 4, in the Township of Norwich (formerly Township of East Oxford), County of Oxford, designated as PART 3 on Reference Plan 41R-4546, and the municipal address of which is 714581 Middletown Line, RR4, Woodstock Ontario N4S 7V8, pursuant to an agreement (copy attached) between the Trustees of Oxford Centre United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as seller, and Glen Whetham, Linda Whetham, Crystal Whetham, as purchasers, dated the 23rd day of November 2021, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Purchaser: Glen Whetham, Linda Whetham, Crystal Whetham Sale Price: \$475,000

Deposit Received: \$20,000

Balance Due: \$455,000

Conditions: No conditions

Scheduled Closing Date: December 16, 2021

The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Oxford Centre United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge, as part of the United Church of Canada.

The net proceeds from the sale are to be held in a restricted fund until disbursed according to the property policy of Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

MOTION

CARRIED.

(Note: Their request for approval of Final Disbursement will need to be deferred for amendment to remove Operation Sharing, Woodstock General Hospital Foundation and Sakura House Hospice.)

Judith Fayter clarified that once the updated final disbursement is received it will come to the Commission for approval.

Other Business:

Reports

Executive Report: Marie Santos reported that they had met mid-month.

Effective date is January 1/2021 for the formation of new funds. The new funds were the inherited funds from Presbyteries and Conference which were consolidated into funds for like purposes and terms set for the funds.

London Conference set aside \$250,000 for Conference closings, costs. Still one legal matter outstanding. 75% AR, WOW, CS – set aside funds for legal matter. Giving funds to Central Church to hold – divided with this proportion

Tri-Regional Council Executive meeting last weekend. Ministry Sharing Agreement ended December 31, 2021. Agreed to extend to December 31/22. Share office, staff, costs, etc. Next year setting up a committee to evaluate the sharing agreement. Common budget categories e.g. Pastoral Relations, Communication, Connecting, Faith Formation, Right Relations, Building Expenses, Emerging Ministries. How to engage more people, volunteers for Commissions, etc.

Updates from Judith Fayter

Judith Fayter asked a question - St. Paul's, Aylmer. Can the supply minister be the pastoral charge supervisor while they search? Yes for short term for board meetings.

Judith then supplied updates of various congregations for the Commission members information.

For interest at the beginning of discussion – Glenwood, Windsor negotiating a cell tower

Curries closing has been extended into 2022. Cheryl-Ann is working with them on this.

Blenheim United Church talking to Anglican church, negotiating space with the Christian Reform Church. Bruce has known these people and it is encouraging.

Congregational Support Ministers from three Regions and Executive Minister met about shared ministry, annual report reviews, etc. Checklist for this is in the dropbox. Trying to meet monthly.

Greg and Judith are going to do some recording of informational videos about various topics. Really good one for streaming for St. Andrew's, College.

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CC 21-53

Figured out what our work is now. Encouraging and holding communities of faith what we can do as we move forward. Local and connects to the work of the Region. Toolkit

Free workshop for tips on hybrid church. Engaging, quick on Thursday's, Riverside Church. Cameron Trimble has a site called Convergence Weekly take you to the 10 tips for hybrid church.

Greg question why are we doing this. Make it user friendly. Minister – here's the links. Have a look at this video first and then let me know your questions.

Miss the directories.

Greg Simpson updated the Commission members about the Glencoe United/Anglican discussions. Had a meeting with the Anglican church and the Bishop is all in. The Anglican church is having conversations. Shifted from if we can do it, now can take the time to do it. Meeting as two congregations and working on things together and continuing the conversation and moving the hurdles along together. Lots of hope there. Not frustrated that they don't have all the answers. Priest was part of a shared ministry and understands and brings wisdom.

Linda Gray let the chair know that she will be with them in January to do the minutes.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Greg Simpson

As the agenda was complete, Chair, Marie Santos adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Judith thanked for all the support and wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year