ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL COUNCIL OF

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

***Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith***

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**Fall 2021 Virtual Meeting**

***Keep Calm and Rock On***

**Minutes of October 29 and October 30, 2021**

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet on Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30, 2021 online via Zoom, with approximately 150 in attendance each day.

**Friday October 29 6:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Welcome**

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

**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.

**Flame Pot Lighting**

Karlene Brown-Palmer opened the session with the lighting of the flame pot.

**Land Acknowledgement/Reconciliation Focus**

President Jane asked all participants to provide in the chat the name of the Indigenous community nearest to them; noting that the Best Western Stoneridge, where the Agenda and Business Committee is gathered is on land covered by Treaty 2 of 1792.

**Walpole Island Greetings**

Eileen Jacobs introduced participants to the community at Walpole Island.

**Worship/Introduction of Theme**

Karlene Brown-Palmer led worship and President Jane introduced her theme.

**BRAVE/Affirm Statement**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister Social Justice, shared BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety. Diane Skomash raised up the Affirm Statement.

**Proposal #1: Opening & Procedural Motions**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the ARWRC adopt the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary;

2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2021-06-10-12;

3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the

 i. Executive

2021-07-21

2021-05-19

2021-04-14

 ii. Covenant Commission;

2021-09-01

2021-08-04

2021-07-07

2021-06-02

2021-05-05

 iii. Human Resources Commission

2021-09-14

2021-07-13

2021-06-08

2021-05-11

iv. Mission and Discipleship Commission

(No approved minutes to receive)

for information.

Note: Minutes are posted on the website www.arwrcucc.ca “About” page

4. Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;

5. Appoint Kenji Marui as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;

6. Appoint Karlene Brown-Palmer as Chair, Worship Committee;

7. Name Robin Shearman to serve as Equity Support Team Member and theological reflector;

8. Name President Jane Van Patter, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Kenji Marui, Chair, Worship, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;

9. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;

10. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call and the sanctuary of Byron United Church, London, Ontario;

11. 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);

12. Make all guests corresponding members;

13. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 10:00 a.m., Saturday, October 30, 2021.

14. Receive all written reports in the workbook.

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

Step One:

The Presenter will outline:

1. What is the issue? and
2. 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.

16. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the General Council:

Step One:

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

 Step Two:

 The Chair, Agenda and Business will move that:

 Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees with the proposal.

 Step Three:

The person or community of faith that submitted the proposal will speak to it first and last before the vote.

 Step Four:

 Vote on agreement with the proposal.

Step Five

 Follow remaining steps as outlined in Section F, Manual.

If the business of the regional council is not completed during the scheduled sessions, the regional council will be asked to consider a motion to extend the Order of the Day on Saturday for up to an additional 90 minutes or until 5 p.m. **CARRIED**

**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. James Ernest Albert White OM and Rev. Cyprian W. Marzec OM.

**Honouring ARWRC Retirees**

The following retirees were honoured in a video presentation: David Carrothers, Barbara Clarke, Christine Jerrett, Donna Kerrigan, Karen Low, Jane Van Patter, Nancy Waterman.

**Community Building: Check-In**

Christina Crawford asked participants to consider and discuss in breakout rooms and then share in the chat, the following: what have you heard or heard differently recently (e.g., through social media, books, or within personal relationships), that has expanded your understanding of racial / or Indigenous justice? What have you or will you do with that understanding?

**Financial Update**

Treasurer Doug Cameron gave an update on finances and outlined the principles that informed the preparation of the 2022 Budget. The way that the income earned on investments support the regional council’s priorities was highlighted.

Clarification was given as to restricted funds; that they are for use as set out by former Presbyteries.

A slight increase was added to office operations to cover increased costs such as heating, etc., for the regional council office building. It was noted also that budgeting for in person travel is less and that staff intend to continue with virtual meetings as much as possible.

Also clarified was Section J expenses and why there weren’t any current expenses. It was explained that Section J expenses are for disciplinary matters and it is not a cost that can be budgeted. Expenses incurred in dealing with matters under Section J: Oversight and Discipline of the Manual will be funded from the Unrestricted Operating Reserve as these fluctuate in numbers and cost.

Doug Cameron noted that the budget is on track.

**Proposal #14: Process for Handling Proposals at the October 29-30, 2021 Meeting**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council adopt the following process for dealing with proposals as presented in proposal 14 as circulated:

1. Allot a maximum of ten minutes per proposal;
2. If still in the informal process, at the end of 10 minutes, ask the President to ascertain the readiness of the regional council to move to a formal motion;
3. When a motion is on the floor at the end of 10 minutes, ask the President to ascertain readiness to vote on the motion;
4. Agree that, if no motion is on the floor at 10 minutes, discussion on this proposal shifts to unfinished business to be considered after other proposals have received at least this minimum period of attention;
5. Agree that, if a motion is on the floor at 10 minutes and the regional council is not yet ready to vote, the motion is postponed definitely until unfinished business when it may be brought back for further discussion and action. **CARRIED**

**General Council Proposals #6 to #12**

Kenji Marui, Chair of Agenda and Business, outlined the proposal tree.



**MOTION:** Brad Morrison / Kenji Marui

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council

A) direct its staff to work in partnership with Office of Vocation staff to develop an action plan to

1. to educate ministry personnel and congregations about section I.2.5.4 of The Manual and related Standards of Practice and Ethical Standards;
2. educate all funeral homes in the ARW Region about section I.2.5.4 of The Manual and the consequences for ministry personnel; and
3. report back to the 2022 Spring ARW AGM on progress; and

 B) request that the Office of Vocation outline progressive discipline for offending ministry personnel and undertake the same if such actions are reported by the regional council.

**CARRIED**

Six proposals for General Council were presented during the proceedings. Author, James Evans, shared these proposals were formed from concerns voiced at a gathering sponsored by UniFaith.

**Proposal #7: A Jurisdiction of Clergy**

Proposal #7 was **Moved:** Jim Evans / **Seconded:** Kenji Marui. Further discussion and voting on this proposal was moved to unfinished business.

**Theological/Equity Reflection**

Equity Support Team Member, Robin Sherman reminded the regional council of the meeting theme, Keep Calm and Rock On and the deeper message of “how did we do today” and suggestion reflecting on that message during the evening.

The meeting closed for the evening with the extinguishing of the flame pot by Karlene Brown-Palmer.

**Saturday October 30 9:30 AM – 11:30 PM**

**Welcome**

President Jane welcomed all back to the meeting.

**Flame Pot Lighting**

Karlene Brown-Palmer opened Saturday’s session with the lighting of the flame pot.

**Land Acknowledgment/Reconciliation Focus**

The regional council was asked to name an Indigenous leader who has influenced them and the names were formed into a word cloud image.



**Saturday Morning Devotion**

Karlene Brown-Palmer offered prayer and reflection, with hymns offered by the talented musicians on the worship team.

**Moraviantown Greetings**

Tarance Whiteye introduced those gathered to the ministry of the congregation of Moraviantown.

**Community Building: Sacred Space**

Christina Crawford invited the group to consider the question “where is sacred space for you” and enter their reflections into the chat.

**GC Recommended Mission and Vision Statement**

General Secretary Michael Blair introduced the United Church’s new mission statement: Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice.

**Financial Decisions**

**Proposal #2**: **Reviewing 2021 Year-to-Date Financial Statements**

**MOTION:** Doug Cameron / Kenji Marui

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees to receive the 2021 operating statement to date for information. **CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Doug Cameron / Kenji Marui

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees to

Direct the Executive to deal with the 2020 Auditors’ Report and

Direct the Executive to forward the 2020 Auditors’ Report via email to the roll of this meeting once it is approved.

**CARRIED**

**Proposal #3: Appointment of Auditors**

**MOTION:** Doug Cameron / Kenji Marui

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council names PWC to perform the 2021 audit of Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the General Council Office. **CARRIED**

**Proposal #4: Operating Budget 2022**

**MOTION:** Doug Cameron / Kenji Marui

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council

1. Endorse the following principles used to develop the budget:

1. Due to the pandemic, churches learned how to gather virtually for worship and for meetings. This significantly reduced carbon emissions and also respected the time of regional council representatives and staff. The budget reflects an expectation that the majority of meetings involving the regional council, its leaders and its staff will be virtual gatherings. Meeting and travel budgets have been adjusted accordingly.
2. As in 2021, every effort was made to sustain a similar level of Mission and Service available for grants.
3. Operating expenses have been increased by 2%.
4. Salaries reflect anticipated increases within the salary grid along with cost of living increments.
5. Expenses incurred in dealing with matters under Section J: Oversight and Discipline of the Manual will be funded from the Unrestricted Operating Reserve as these fluctuate in numbers and cost.

And

2. Adopt the proposed 2022 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.

**CARRIED**

**United Property Resource Corporation: Tim Blair, CEO of United Property Resource Corporation**

Tim Blair, Chief Executive Officer of the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), which is a wholly owned entity of the United Church of Canada, shared a UPRC video outlining the exciting work of the corporation. Following the video, he answered some general questions from meeting participants, including examples of rural and small projects, and how UPRC works with various communities of faith.

**Hope Council**

A video was shared outlining the Hope Council’s ministry.

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the order of the day be extended by 30 minutes to 12 noon.

**CARRIED**

**Stewardship Presentation**

A video presentation by Dave Jagger, Stewardship & Gifts Officer, outlined the donations to Mission & Service (M&S), emphasized some of the many projects & initiatives which have benefitted from the United Church’s M&S fund, and outlined the *Called to be the Church* modules.

**General Council 44 Proposals #8, #9, #10**

As an evaluation of structural change is planned, Jim Evans agreed that *Proposal #8: Review of New Structure* be withdrawn.

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

That the ARW Regional Council directs its Executive to keep in mind the following points when reviewing the new structure and communicate these to the General Secretary, requesting they be considered for that process:

That the review reveal  ways  we  have  been  more  or  less  faithful  to  our  many  commitments  to  equity, considering these  principles:

* adopting  the  United  Nations  Declaration  on  the  Rights  of  Indigenous  Peoples  as  the  framework for reconciliation  between  Indigenous  and  non-Indigenous  peoples;
* adopting  the  Calls  to  the  Church  from  the  Caretakers  of  our  Indigenous  Circle  as  the  basis

for  a  new relationship;

* welcoming  people  of  all  sexual  orientations  and  gender  identities  into  full  membership  and  ministry  in the  church;
* committing to becoming  an  intercultural  church;
* committing to becoming  an  open, accessible,  and  barrier-free  church,  where  there  is  full  participation of  people  with  disabilities;
* working  towards  functional  bilingualism  and  ensuring  that  Francophone  ministries  are  an

integral  part of  the  church’s  identity,  mission,  and  vision;

* opposing  discrimination  of  any  kind  on  the  basis  of  identity;  and
* developing  an  anti-racism  policy  and  committing  to  becoming  an  anti-racist  denomination.

**CARRIED**

**Proposal #9: Vocational Process Accountability**

During discussion of Proposal #9, a point of clarification was made by Micol Cottrell, Acting Minister Pastoral Relations. Calls and appointments fall under the Human Resources Commission in accordance with UCC policy. It is the work of the HR Commission to oversee the appointment itself, done through ChurchHub, not assigned by regional council. If a person serving in a pastoral relationship no longer meets the requirements, that pastoral relationship must come to an end.

Further discussion and the vote on Proposal #9 was shifted to unfinished business.

Proposal #10 was moved to unfinished business.

A Theological Equity Reflection was shared by Robin Sherman.

The meeting then broke for lunch.

**Saturday October 16**

**1:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

President Jane welcomed the regional council back following the lunch break.

**Land Acknowledgment/Reconciliation Focus**

The regional council was asked to share, in the chat, the answer to the question, “What is your next step in your commitment to reconciliation?”

**Fairfield**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa introduced Chief Denise Stonefish of the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown. Chief Stonefish shared with the regional council her people’s deep connection to the land where the village of Fairfield once was and their hopes to create an interpretation centre there.

**Introduction of Karlene Kimber, DM Candidate**

Tanya Cameron, Office of Vocation Minister, introduced Karlene Kimber, DM candidate.

**Address to the Court: Karlene Kimber**

Karlene Kimber shared a heartfelt and moving address to the court about her path to ministry.

**Commission Reports**

The Mission & Discipleship Commission, Covenant Commission and Human Resources Commission shared written and video reports highlighting their ongoing and dedicated work.

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the order of the day be extended by 90 minutes to 5 p.m**. CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Pam Wilcox / Brad Morrison

That proposals be dealt with until completion, without being confined to the 10-minute timeline.

**CARRIED**

**Unfinished/New Business General Council Proposals: #10, #11, #12, #7, #9**

**Proposal #10: Care of the Church’s Marginalized**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees with *Proposal #10: Care of the Church’s Marginalized* as presented on Page 40 of the ARWRC Fall 2021 Meeting Workbook. **CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council adds the following statements to its acceptance of Proposal #10:

1. that those on the Discontinued Service List (DSL) take the responsibility to keep their contact information updated with the GCO.

And

2. that a mechanism be developed by GC to ensure that those on the DSL are able to communicate with the GCO. **CARRIED**

**Proposal #11: Senior GCO and Regional Staff Performance Reviews**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees with *Proposal #11: Senior GCO and Regional Staff Performance Reviews* as presented on Page 41 of the ARWRC Fall 2021 Meeting Workbook.

**CARRIED**

**Proposal #12: Vocation Review and Discipline Accountability**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees with *Proposal #12: Vocation Review and Discipline Accountability* as presented on Page 43 of the ARWRC Fall 2021 Meeting Workbook.

**CARRIED**

**Proposal #7: A Jurisdiction of Clergy**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees with *Proposal #7: A Jurisdiction of Clergy* as presented on Pages 34 & 35 of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Fall 2021 Meeting Workbook.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council adds the following statement to its acceptance of Proposal #7: That the line included in the Proposal: “direct that each Region employ a chaplain whose sole job is the support of clergy”, be removed.

**CARRIED**

**Proposal #9: Vocational Process Accountability**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Jim Evans

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees with *Proposal #9: Vocational Process Accountability* as presented on Pages 38 and 39 of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Fall 2021 Meeting Workbook.

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui/ Jim Evans

Antler River Watershed Regional Council adds the following statement to its acceptance of Proposal #9:

Antler River Watershed Regional Council asks that “C” be amended to read “ The regional council will not appoint or dismiss students to/from sites without prior consultation with the Community of Faith and the Candidate”.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui/ Jim Evans

Antler River Watershed Regional Council adds the following statement to its acceptance of Proposal #9:

This proposal includes all streams of ministry.

**CARRIED**

**Community Building: Meeting Message**

Christina Crawford asked the group to think about the question “What message are you taking from this meeting back to your community of faith and how will you share it?” and share any thoughts in the chat.

**Proposal #5: Closing Motions**

**MOTION** Kenji Marui / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its October 29-30, 2021 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the spring of 2022; and
4. Entrust 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. Close the October 29-30, 2021 meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministry Service on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**Theological Equity Reflection**

Robin Sherman noted that our Commissions gave us insight to the wider work of the church and have called us to be all in to take this message of inclusion and unpack it with each congregation to ask the hard questions and to listen for the still small voice of God, reflected back to us through action. Robin concluded, may we keep calm and rock on and every once in a while, ask yourself, how did we do today.

**Courtesies**

President Jane thanked the planning team of Kenji Marui, Louise Hall, Pam Wilcox, Christina Crawford and Robin Sherman and Karlene Brown-Palmer, parliamentarian Brad Morrison. Also thanks to Karlene Brown-Palmer for all the work she did presenting the music and the worship, and the candle lighting throughout the meeting. Thanks were also extended to staff and chaplains Kevin Steeper and Rev. Melanie Kirk.

**Closing Prayer, Reflection & Final Blessing**

President Jane closed the meeting with prayer, a brief reflection and a final blessing.

The flame pot was extinguished.

Meeting Adjourned.