

Covenant Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

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), Dave Whiting (L)

Staff Support: Rev. Judith Fayter, Minister, Congregational Support & Mission, jfayter@united-church.ca; Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support & Mission, lallin@united-church.ca; Pretima Kukadia, pkukadia@united-church.ca

Present: Marie Santos, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Greg Simpson, Dave Whiting, Judith Fayter, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia

Absent: Jim Evans, Adam Kilner

Regrets:

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Marie Santos welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was then constituted and opened.

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: Marie Santos presented thought-provoking ideas with the Jellybean Prayer with a focus on racial and cultural diversity. Often used to help children learn about Easter, but black and brown are always impure.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Greg Simpson that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Consent Docket:

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of March 2, 2022 be accepted as circulated.
2. **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**

- a. Appoint Diane Macpherson as pastoral charge supervisor for Dunwich United Church, Dunwich, effective March 15, 2022.
- b. Appoint John Brown as pastoral charge supervisor for Central United Church, St. Thomas, effective May 1, 2022.
- c. Appoint Marg Murray as pastoral charge supervisor for Kintore and Brooksdale United Churches, effective March 29, 2022.
- d. Appoint Adam Kilner as pastoral charge supervisor for St. Paul’s United Church, Sarnia, effective March 29, 2022.

3. Annual Reports

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

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| Bothwell Wabash Pastoral Charge | Brigden United Church |
| Calvary United Church, London | College Avenue United Church, Woodstock |
| Forest United Church | Grace United Church, Sarnia |
| Metropolitan United Church, London | New Melbourne United Church |
| Richwood United Church | Ruthven Pastoral Charge |
| Strathroy United Church | Wesley-Knox United Church, London |
| Dorchester United Church | Trinity Ingersoll Pastoral Charge |
| Burgessville Pastoral Charge | Beachville Pastoral Charge |
| Trinity United Church, Wallaceburg | Roseland-Trinity Pastoral Charge, Windsor |

4. Self Assessments, received with thanks:

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5. Community of Faith Profiles, received with thanks:

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| Byron United Church, London | |
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6. Sale of Ravenwood United Church

Moved by Andi McKillop / Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to acceptance of the Offer of Sale of the Ravenswood United Church property, as set out in the following terms, according to the motion of the Trustees of Ravenswood United Church and the Real Estate Listing provided:

We consent to the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is CON LRW S PT LOT 54 & CON LRW S PT LOT 54 RP25R7658 PART 2 and the municipal address of which is

7476 Lakeshore Road, Lambton Shores, Ontario, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Ravenswood United, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as the seller and Mark Armitage, agent dated the first day of March 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows for the sale:

- Agent, Mark Armitage of Re/Max Realty Sarnia Inc.
- Purchaser - Danielle Woods & Andrew Donati
- Sale Price - \$427,000
- Deposit - \$10,000
- Balance Due - \$417,000
- Terms of any Mortgage - none
- Conditions - none
- Warranties - none
- Scheduled Closing Date - August 31, 2022

Carried March 30, 2022 by email vote.

MOTION by Greg Simpson / Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the **consent docket as circulated**.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

1. Moravian United Church Technology Grant

MOTION by Mark Perry / Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Technology Grant Application of Moravian United Church for \$1,500.00.

MOTION

CARRIED

2. Strathroy United Church Constitution

MOTION by Dave Whiting / Greg Simpson that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Constitution of Strathroy United Church as submitted.

MOTION

CARRIED

3. Final Disbursements of Ravenswood United Church

MOTION by Mark Perry / Andi McKillop that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve that the 33% of the Final Disbursements of Ravenswood United Church be disbursed equally between Lambton United Church Centre, Forest United Church, and the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

MOTION

CARRIED

4. Cemetery Trust Agreement: Oxford Centre United Church Cemetery

MOTION by Dave Whiting / Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Deed of Settlement between Oxford Centre United Church Trustees and The Township of Norwich, establishing a Cemetery Trust in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the care of the Oxford United Church Cemetery, according to the terms of the Trust Agreement attached to these minutes.

MOTION

CARRIED

Other Business:

1. Executive Report: Marie Santos

Cemeteries should be dealt with at time of disbanding. At the time of disbanding Zion United Church set up a cemetery board to deal with the cemetery after disbanding. The cemetery board members are aging and would like to be released from their commitment and transfer care of cemetery to St Clair Township. Since the church has disbanded years ago there are no legal trustees. The executive passed a motion to make 3 out of the 5 members of the cemetery board be made trustees to legally transfer the cemetery to St Clair Township.

Deanna Gibson resigned from the Staff Committee.

Diane Blanchard is retiring as of August 31, 2022 and a search team is set up to find a new Minister of Pastoral Relations.

The executive approved the yearly appointments of the board of directors for the following:

Lambton Presbytery United Church Centre;

East London United Church Outreach;

Pearce William United Church Christian Centre; and

The United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor.

The final audited ARWR financial statements for 2019 were received.

Mark Perry's and Adam Kilner's terms for the Covenant Commission are complete as of the Spring Meeting. Executive would appreciate if they submit Expressions of Interest to continue with the commission for another 3 year term for continuity.

Kevin Steeper's sabbatical plan was approved.

2. Report: Judith Fayter / Lynne Allin

Guilds Pastoral Charge (New Scotland United and Ridge Community Church) are working on amalgamating the two points into one new congregation. They are planning to sell the Ridge Church building. St. Paul's United Church in Sarnia is in an ideal location, they are disbanding and UPRC are looking at their re-development. Final disbursements still get taken care of. The 33% is still for St. Paul to allocate, even if part of a revenue stream. Inn of the Good Shepherd may be one of their selected recipients, due to their historical ties to the United Church.

Pastoral Charge supervisors: Judith will talk to Annette Skillings. First United Church, St. Thomas needs a supervisor, along with John Brown at Central United Church.

3. **Other Information**

Good to have Lynne Allin coming back to the job.

Lynne is reacquainting herself with congregations and the work involved with the Covenant Commission. Not officially, as far as congregations are concerned. Looking to take on the role as of May 1, with Judith as backup for a couple more weeks.

Next Meeting: May 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Dave Whiting

Marie Santos declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.