

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, Jim Evans, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Greg Simpson, Dave Whiting, Judith Fayter, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia

Absent: 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: Dave Whiting presented worship. A story of history and Christianity. Some shaped due to colonizing cultures. What does that mean? Where did the history of our particular United Churches come from? Dave found six in the area from 1862 onward. Dave also traced his own family history to the same local area. Found Treaty #9 from the Government of Canada covering the same areas. 18 different Indigenous bands were named, Chiefs and principal names, George IV, inhabiting and owning these lands of thousands of square kilometres – bands get 1,000 pounds/year and two small reserves, as of 1827.

It all became clear that our church has the shape of our colonizing culture. Dave ended with a prayer.

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 April 6, 2022 be accepted as circulated.

Approval of Previous Minutes of April 26, 2022 be accepted as circulated.

2. **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**

3. Confirmation of Email vote Talbotville Suburban Pastoral Charge

Motioned by Greg Simpson / Mark Perry that the Antler River Watershed Covenant Commission approve the Financial Viability worksheet of Talbotville Suburban Pastoral Charge and their request to seek a minister for call/appointment up to Category F for 40 hours per week. Carried by email vote April 13th, 2022.

4. **Annual Reports** – there is an Excel file, please review with checks

The Covenant Commission receives the following communities of faith 2021 annual reports with thanks:

Byron United Church	Hebron UC
Innerkip UC	Ravenswood UC
Richards Memorial UC	Talbotville UC
Trinity UC London	Glencoe UC
Dawn Valley Oil Springs	Village UC (2020) and 2021
Epworth UC	Melville Ivan PC
Norwich UC	Thamesville UC

5. The Covenant Commission receives with thanks the invitation to attend the closing worship service of Ravenswood United Church.

MOTION by Dave Whiting/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

1. **Corunna United Church** –

MOTION by Andi McKillop/ Dave Whiting that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith Profile of Corunna United Church and approve their request to call/appoint a minister full-time(40 hours/week) up to Category C.

MOTION

CARRIED

2. **Trinity United Church, London**

MOTION by Greg Simpson/ Jim Evans that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith Profile of Trinity United Church, London and approve their request to call/appoint a minister full-time (40 hours/week) up to Category E, 50 percent of time and expenses to be shared with Mount Zion United Church.

MOTION

CARRIED

3. **Mount Zion United Church, London**

MOTION by Greg Simpson/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith Profile of Mount Zion United Church, London and approve their request to call/appoint a minister in a shared ministry agreement with Trinity United Church, for 20 hours/week up to Category E.

MOTION

CARRIED

4. **Mount Zion and Trinity United Churches, London**

MOTION by Dave Whiting/ Andi McKillop that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the Collaborative Agreement between Mount Zion United Church and Trinity United Church, London, with the recommendation that they add a clause requiring a minimum of 120 days notice before withdrawing from the agreement.

MOTION

CARRIED

5. **Final Disbursements: Oxford Centre United Church**

MOTION by Jim Evans/ Andi McKillop that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the final disbursement of the 33% of the pastoral charge assets as follows: 50% of the Congregation share be given to and shared equally amongst twelve local neighbouring United Church Congregations and that 50% be shared between Camp Bimini, Camp Tanner (both United Church youth camps in Perth and Oxford Counties), Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre, and Operation Sharing-Woodstock.

The twelve local churches selected to share the funds are: Otterville United Church – Otterville Ontario; Norwich United Church –Norwich Ontario; Newark United Church – Newark Ontario; Burgessville United Church –Burgessville, Ontario; Mount Elgin United Church –Mount Elgin Ontario; Innerkip United Church –Innerkip Ontario; Sweaburg United Church –Sweaburg Ontario; Foldens United Church –Foldens Ontario; West Oxford United

Church –Ingersoll Ontario; St. David’s United Church –Woodstock Ontario; Dundas Street United Church –Woodstock Ontario; College Avenue United Church –Woodstock Ontario.

MOTION

CARRIED

Discussion re. what is identified as UC property? What does that entail?

6. **Innerkip United Church**

MOTION by **Andi McKillop/ Greg Simpson** that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith Documents from Innerkip Pastoral Charge and approve the request to seek a call/appointment part-time-20 hours per week, up to Category F.

MOTION

CARRIED

7. **Browns United Church (Wellburn Pastoral Charge)**

MOTION by **Mark Perry/ Greg Simpson** that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request of Wellburn Pastoral Charge to change their name to Browns Pastoral Charge by motion at a Congregational meeting of Browns United Church held on April 10, 2022.

MOTION

CARRIED

8. **Constitution Grace United Church Sarnia**

MOTION by **Greg Simpson/ Mark Perry** that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Constitution of Grace United Church, Sarnia, as submitted.

MOTION

CARRIED

9. **Central United Church, St. Thomas**

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

(1) to the Lease of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is 135 Wellington St., St Thomas, and the municipal address of which is 135 Wellington St., St Thomas, ON, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Central United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Licensor, and The St Thomas Economic Development Corporation, as Licensee, dated the 26th of April, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

RECITALS:

1. The Licensor is the owner of the building located at 135 Wellington Street
2. The Licensee wishes to use the exterior west wall to paint a mural;
3. The subject matter of the mural will be keeping with community;
4. The Licensor has agreed to grant the rights and privileges set forth herein.

NOW THEREFORE IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING PREMISES, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Licensor hereby grants to the Licensee the exclusive right to paint or cause to be painted a mural on the exterior of the wall building.
2. The Licensee and its principals, agents, workmen and assigns shall have access to the said wall at all reasonable times for the purpose of preparing the surface, painting the mural, and doing all things necessary or incidental thereto.
3. The Licensee and its principals, agents, workmen and assigns shall have continued access to the said wall at all reasonable times to preserve and maintain the mural and to conduct interviews, photo sessions or other such promotional events.
4. The Licensor understands that the wall mural is to remain accessible for public viewing throughout the term of this contract and hereby agrees to refrain from covering or obscuring any portion of the mural with signage, wall siding or other structures, on or above the Licensor's said lands and building.
5. The rights, licenses and privileges granted herein shall continue, initially for a term of five (5) years from the date of this Agreement and may thereafter be terminated by the Licensor giving notice, in writing, to the Licensee not less than ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of termination. Until this Agreement is so terminated, the rights and licenses granted herein shall run with the land and be binding upon the subsequent purchases, transferees, successors and assigns of the Licensor.
6. Any notice given pursuant to clause five (5) shall be validly given if delivered personally or if mailed by prepaid registered mail to Licensee to the following address:

St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation
PO Box 520, City Hall, ST. THOMAS, On N5P 3V7

Any such notice mailed as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been received by and given to the addressee on the first business day following the date of mailing. The Licensee may at any given time give notice in writing to the Licensor at the address recited herein of any change of address of the Licensee and from and after the giving of such notice the address specified therein shall be deemed to be the address of the Licensee for the purpose of giving notice pursuant to clause five (5).
7. The Licensor hereby consents to the registration of the Agreement on title to the property.
8. This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.

(2) The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Central United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, in trust for the Central United Church congregation as a part of The United Church of Canada;

MOTION

CARRIED

10. Ridge Community United Church

MOTION by Mark Perry / Andi McKillop that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent the request of Ridge Community United Church to the listing of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Part of the Southeasterly half of Lot 18, in the Seventh Concession, Lake Erie Survey, Township of Harwich, County of Kent, and the municipal address of which is 20218 Mull Road, Blenheim, Ontario, N0P1A0, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Ridge Community United Church , a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as vendor and Excel Realty as Realtor dated Monday, April 11, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Excel Realty Services, Inc. Brokerage, agent Ryan Jones, requesting a 4% commission. The asking price, on his recommendation is \$25,000. The proposed possession date will be September 1, 2022. For any exceptions, see enclosed conditions.

MOTION

CARRIED

11. Congregational Toolkit Videos

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Jim Evans that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the preparation of informational videos for various Congregational Toolkits, at a cost of \$350.00 per video, as per the proposal submitted by Greg Simpson, the cost to be shared equally between Antler River Watershed Region, Horseshoe Fall Region and Western Ontario Waterways Region.

MOTION

CARRIED

Greg Simpson abstains from this vote.

12. Pastoral Charge Supervisor Recruiter Position Description

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Greg Simpson that the covenant commission approves the position description for a pastoral charge supervisor recruiter(s) for ARW.

MOTION

CARRIED

Discussion: In the past when this was discussed as an honorarium we spoke of paying \$20/hour, but the current amount mentions \$31.50. We are asking for more, keeping track, current, a certain amount of training, etc. This amount is the same as paid in the other two regional councils.

13. Rural Connect Funding

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Greg Simpson that the covenant commission recommends the executive designate \$5000 for the rental of equipment from General Council for congregations wanting to run a trial of the Rural Connect system.

MOTION

CARRIED

Hoping to get more churches as 'hubs'. One church is a hub and coordinates the streaming for the cluster/satellite churches. One church does the worship, the Hub church has the equipment, the others 'project' the service. An expansion of the ministry of the Hub church. Worship is shared. Sharing with lay-led churches. An option that can be life-giving, keep the congregation from closing.

Other Business:

Andi McKillop and Greg Simpson had to leave at 10:30 am.

14. Reports

Executive Report:

The executive approved an Investment in Leaders Fund grant application submitted by Tabitha Carey. The Executive approved the Board of Directors for 2022 for Kee-Mo-Kee Campsite of the UCC, and the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery. Oxford United Ministries current agreement with regional council ends on December 31, 2022 and any future terms would need to be negotiated at that time. President Jane will develop a process for nominations/discernment process for ARWRC executive/commissions. Proposed meeting dates for Regional Council meetings are as follows: Fall 2022 online October 28 to 29 and Spring 2023 In person May 12 to 13th.

The executive appointed Rev. Micol Cottrell as our new Minister, Pastoral Relations, effective August 1, 2022.

Glen Pearson, member of Wesley Know UC, London, former MP and director of the London Food Bank. London; Bishop Favro (RC); and Bishop Townsend (Anglican) are engaged in the process of starting in the City of London an initiative limited to the city of London that involves using the buildings of disbanding congregations to repurpose them into homeless shelters. It has three stages:

1. transfer the building to a not-for-profit corporation;
2. repurpose the building for a specific target group (i.e. homeless survivors of domestic violence, homeless dealing with addictions, etc.)
3. engage social agencies at the site.

We can only participate if a multi-faith corporation was formed in which we were a partner and currently this process does not fit the current property policies which distributes to other ministries because we would have to direct 100% of proceeds to this project.

Discussion: We have something in place with (formerly UCPR) Kindred Works as it is maintained and we know what happens with the property.

Staff Report:

Reporting Forms. The Motion Tracking form was screen shared and historical motions from 2019 onward will be added in over the summer. Hopefully we can designate a commission member, resource pool member will continue keeping this current. This form is connected to SharePoint and automatically populates.

We will be conducting meetings via Zoom for several reasons: reduce carbon footprint, keep costs down, watch out for Covid.

Next Meeting: June 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Mark Perry

MOTION that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned.

MOTION

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned.