

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. 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, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia

Absent: Adam Kilner, Jim Evans

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: Mark Perry presented worship. Reading from Genesis and the Tower of Babel. The Lord came down to see the city that people had built, all with one language. "Let us confuse their language ..." We don't do a great job of talking to and listening to each other.

We give you thanks for these times to talk to one another and help us listen.

Corresponding Member(s)

MOTION by Mark Perry / Greg Simpson that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council that Kim Gilliland, Gary Taveirne, John Logan (daughter, Jennifer Baggio) and Diane Matheson-Jimenez be named as corresponding members.

MOTION

CARRIED

Update from Cottam United Church re: Ukrainian Refugee Program

Introduction of corresponding members and of new program for which help is needed. Jennifer, Kim, Diane and Gary Taveirne. John unable to log in – will not be joining meeting.

John Logan is a land developer, who, with other building connections are interested in donating their building services and waiving fees to build a home to assist Ukrainian refugees. They would like to build a raised ranch, with one family residing in the upper level and one in the lower level. The deed would be in the name of the United Church.

All parties require legal counsel regarding CRA, taxes, upkeep, the city of Cottam and how to put it into United Church ownership. Will need professional advice to decide who holds the charitable number for the property. CRA guidelines are strict.

Lawyer John Sanders (John Sanders, Cline Barristers & Solicitors) has done property work and will be brought onboard. Windsor-Essex Canada Helps Ukraine is doing receipting. Cottam will then do receipts.

The local credit union willing to provide up to 400K mortgage, will postpone payment minimum to 3 years, interest will be low (at cost). Fifteen thousand flyers are ready to go out, waiting on federal support notice. Council meeting with town is on June 13. A press release in the works. Currently, 250K short on value of house of 1 million.

This fits well within the mission of Cottam United Church. They would need United Church trustees to manage the home and support the families that arrive. Cottam United Church can carry the mortgage and has many volunteers for upkeep. Rental, if transitional, can be handled by the church.

Donations need to be for a broad enough purpose to cover present and future uses of this housing. Collect for those precariously in need of housing.

This is a wonderful work you are doing and you should be congratulated for this generosity. KG: Thank you, also, to the Covenant Commission.

Dave Whiting needs to leave the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION

CARRIED

Consent Docket

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of May 4, 2022 be accepted as circulated.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of May 27, 2022 be accepted as amended.
3. **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**

- a. That the Covenant Commission appoints Karlene Kimber as pastoral charge supervisor to First United Church, St. Thomas as of June 1, 2022
- b. That the Covenant Commission appoints Lori Minler as pastoral charge supervisor to Avondale UC, Tillsonburg as of June 1, 2022
- c. That the Covenant Commission appoints Ken Jackson as pastoral charge supervisor to Princeton-Etonia pastoral charge as of June 1, 2022

4. Annual Reports

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

Foldens United Church, Foldens	Wheatley United Church, Wheatley
Banner United Church, Ingersoll	Bethel-Maidstone United Church, Maidstone
Epworth United Church, Kingsville	London Rd West United Church, Sarnia
Melbourne United Church, Melbourne	St. Paul’s United Church, Aylmer
St. David’s United Church, Woodstock	St. Andrew’s United Church, Chatham
Darrel S. Moffat Memorial United Church, Tilbury	Dunwich United Church, Dutton

5. Self Assessments to be received with thanks

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6. Community of Faith Profiles to be received with thanks

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

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business**1. Dunwich United Church, Dutton**

MOTION by Greg Simpson/ Mark Perry that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council receive the Community of Faith Profile of Dunwich United Church and their request to seek a call/appointment for a minister (20 hours per week) up to Category D, pending approval by their governing body.

MOTION

CARRIED

Andi McKillop abstained from the vote.

2. Dundas United Church, Woodstock

MOTION by Mark Perry/ Andi McKillop that the Covenant Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Community of Faith Profiles for Dundas Street United Church and their request to seek a call/appointment for a minister (40 hours per week) up to Category F, pending approval by their governing body.

MOTION

CARRIED

Other Business

1. Review of ecumenical shared ministry agreement and constitution for Trinity United Church, Glencoe. Anglican and United Church working well together. Good idea to include how many times a month the liturgy will be Anglican-based in the agreement.

2. Executive Report: Marie Santos

Marie reported that the May meeting was cancelled but approved the following two motions by email:

- i. That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive authorized a Mission Support Grant of \$5,000 for the Ridgetown Chaplaincy for 2022.
- ii. That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive approved the request of the Oxford Legacy Fund Committee for a grant of up to \$5,000 for an EcoTheology event September 2022 as outlined in the attached application, with Lynne Dunlop of the Committee serving as a liaison for the finances.

3. Congregational Support & Mission Report: Lynne Allin

Update regarding **Central United Church, Windsor** insurance. They have liability insurance in place. Meeting on June 9 to meet with trustees. No one is using the space while structural concerns.

A letter on behalf of **Ridge Community United Church** has been sent by their lawyer to the neighbouring property owner regarding the dispute related to property boundaries. The

Board of Trustees is reviewing an offer to purchase the property. Might allow the property to be bought with the building taken down. Will look into a controlled burn, if recommended.

Update regarding **Rural Connect**, Harrow United Church is interested in becoming a Hub site. Randy Boyd, coordinates Rural Connect, need to update invoicing. Satellite churches can be in one regional council while Hub is in another regional council. There is a no-interest payment schedule. 30,000 paid by Hub (pay-to-own) can be paid over some years. Need to clarify who is paying 'rent,' data and internet. Harrow United Church is looking at satellite, Thamesville United Church can look into this temporarily between ministers. A Hub can have 3 satellites connected to a service at any one time. Rural Connect's website also comes up as open to viruses. Administration assistance is required, would like more support from the United Church. So far, only one Hub per regional council is funded by grants. How to fund more than one Hub.

Discussion regarding review of annual reports and follow up workshops such as "Deficit Dilemma" and Governance best practices.

Discussion regarding training sessions for regional council lay representatives to enable them to provide guidance to their communities of faith regarding annual reports and completion of profiles, etc.

Update regarding St. Paul's United Church property and disbanding process.

4. **Other Information**

Thank you to Marie for her excellent leadership and service.

Next Meeting: July 6, 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

AGREED

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.