ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL COUNCIL OF

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**Spring 2022 Hybrid Meeting**

***Fear Not! Be Bold and Courageous!***

**Minutes of June 10 and June 11, 2022**

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet virtually on Friday, June 10 and online via Zoom and in person on Saturday, June 11, 2022, with approximately 150 total participants (in person and online) in attendance each day.

***Meeting Session: Friday, June 10, 6:00 – 8:30 PM, online via Zoom***

**Welcome**

President Jane Van Patter welcomed all to the June, 2022 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.

**BRAVE, Affirm Statement**

Michelle Owens, Equity Support Team Member for the meeting, shared BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety and raised up the Affirm Statement.

President Jane introduced the meeting leadership.

**Opening & Procedural Motions** (Proposal #1)

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Kerry Stover

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council 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
4. Executive

2021-09-08

2021-11-17

2021-11-27

2022-01-12

2022-03-09

1. Covenant Commission;

2021-10-06

2021-11-03

2021-12-01

2022-01-05

2022-02-02

2022-03-02

2022-04-06

2022-04-26

2022-05-04

2022-05-27

1. Human Resources Commission

2022-05-10

2022-04-12

2022-03-08

2022-02-01

2021-12-14

2021-11-09

2021-10-12

1. Mission and Discipleship Commission

 2022-04-14

 2022-03-01

 2022-01-11

 2021-12-07

 2021-09-07

for information.

*Note:  Minutes are posted on the website* [*www.arwrcucc.ca*](http://www.arwrcucc.ca)*“About” page*

1. Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;
2. Appoint Kenji Marui as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
3. Name Michelle Owens to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
4. Name President Jane Van Patter, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Kenji Marui, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
5. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;
6. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call and the gymnasium of the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus; and the sanctuary of Erie Street United Church, Ridgetown, Ontario;
7. 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);
8. Make all guests corresponding members;
9. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 11, 2022.
10. Receive all written reports in the workbook.
11. 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.

 **CARRIED**

**Lighting of Christ Candle, Call to Worship, Land Acknowledgement, Worship**

Greg Simpson and Marque Smith led opening worship.

**Message from the Moderator**

A video message from Moderator Richard Bott was shared.

President Jane introduced her theme, via video: “*Fear Not! Be Bold and Courageous!”.*

**General Council Office Greetings**

Jennifer Henry (she/her), Senior Program Development and Strategy Lead, Office of the Moderator and General Secretary, Interim Senior Manager, Communications, brought greetings from the General Council Office.

**Staff Support Committee Message**

Staff Support Committee Chair, John Smith, thanked the staff team, making special note of Diane Blanchard, Minister, Pastoral Relations, who is retiring August 31, 2022.

**Introduction of Micol Cottrell**

President Jane introduced Micol Cottrell, who will be joining the regional council staff team as Minister, Pastoral Relations, and thanked Diane Blanchard for her dedicated service in the role.

**Introduction of Candidates**

Tanya Cameron, Office of Vocation Minister, introduced ministry candidates Charmain Bailey and Sharon Campbell-Rayment.

**Address to the Court**

In video messages, Sharon Campbell-Rayment and Charmain Bailey shared their excitement and their ministry journey.

**UCW 60th Anniversary**

Lorna Gardner, ARW UCW representative on the ARWRC Executive, spoke about the UCW’s 60th anniversary and the history of service of the UCW.

Kenji Marui reminded the court that the deadline for new business and nominations for president-elect is Saturday, June 11, at 9 AM.

**Pastoral Relationships Thriving with Equity Project**

Kimiko Karpoff outlined this project, inviting engagement from ministry personnel and communities of faith. The study will be done through a combination of on-line surveys, focus groups and one-on-one conversations to seek to find patterns, common stories and wisdom in order to know how better to support ministry personnel and communities of faith.

**Update on Workplace Discrimination Harassment and Violence Response Policy**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister, provided an update on the policy, revised by General Council Executive, May 25, 2022. Highlighting *Appendix G, Responsible Bodies*, and noting the new policy reflects J.5.1: Bodies of Accountability.

**Worship**

Worship focused on anti-bullying, was led by Ryk Brown and Gail Fricker, who partnered with Minister, Social Justice, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, and Minister, Pastoral Support, Kevin Steeper, to prepare this session. Dramatic re-enactments of scripture were interspersed with video vignettes outlining how regional staff support Ministry and Personnel Committees and Ministry Personnel.

Marque Smith and Greg Simpson closed the Friday night session with music.

The meeting session was adjourned for the evening with a planned resumption on Saturday, June 11th at 9:30 AM.

***Meeting Session: Saturday, June 11, 2022, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM, online via Zoom and in-person at the Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph, Ridgetown, ON***

The regional council’s first hybrid meeting opened with music and fellowship and refreshments at 8:30 AM for those in person at the Ridgetown Campus gymnasium. For those joining via zoom, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister Social Justice (online only) and Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support and Mission (online in person from the Ridgetown Campus) served as online community hosts.

**Welcome**

President Jane welcomed all back, both online and in person and spoke to the sunflower, being used as a symbol for this meeting.

**Lighting of Christ Candle, Call to Worship, Land Acknowledgement, Worship**

Greg Simpson and Marque Smith led Saturday’s opening worship.

**Community Building: Welcome Back**

Pam Wilcox led a time of community building. In breakout rooms online and at table groups in person, each person was invited to speak to introduce themselves and their community of faith and tell the group what wonderful thing their church is doing or supporting. After introductions, participants were invited to brainstorm together: how can the Regional Council support your community of faith? Ideas were entered in the zoom chat, and noted on paper provided at each table.

**Seeking a New Pastoral Relationship: Things to Consider**

Tanya Cameron, Office of Vocation Minister, outlined things for ministry personnel to consider when seeking a new pastoral relationship. Tanya referenced *The Pastoral Relations: Ministry Personnel Handbook* and emphasized that while it is entirely normative to interview at more than one community of faith, all parties only negotiate a single call/appointment at a time.

**UCC “Then Let Us Sing” Project**

Sarah Lough shared a video and answered questions from attendees about Then Let Us Sing! , a new online hymnal and music resource from United Church Publishing House, <https://thenletussing.ca/> . It will be available in the fall of 2024.

**Stewardship, Mission & Service, and Beyond**

A 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. Dave distributed flash drives to those in person, containing links to the stewardship website. Dave added that his position has changed to Community of Faith Stewardship – Lead; he will be responsible for supporting congregations and regions all across the country through Community of Faith Stewardship Support staff team deployed to the regional clusters. A search for a new Community of Faith Stewardship Support staff person is underway.

**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. Douglas Athol Greenough, Rev. Ralph E. Ingleby, Rev. Dr. Douglas Harry Ross, Rev. Stanley Arthur Stanhope, and Rev. Thomas “Ross” Williams.

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

The regional council recognized the disbandment of West Lorne United Church, with thanks for their ministry and years of service.

**Anniversaries and Jubilands**

The anniversaries of ministry personnel being admitted, recognized, commissioned or ordained were celebrated. Special congratulations to the following Jubilands.

55 years: Maurice Francis OM, Glen Wright OM

61 plus years: J. Bruce Small OM, Arthur Woitte OM, R. Edward Sam OM

65 plus years: Donald Hansford OM, D. Blain Thierry OM, Norman Jones OM

And 70 years, with blessings on his 100th birthday, Lewis Snow OM

**Our Words Matter: Reconsidering the Word “Mission”**

The regional council considered the word “mission”. Teresa Burnett-Cole, a member of the National Indigenous Council and General Council Executive and Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations, led a thought-provoking discussion/presentation. The regional council learned that the word is rare in the Bible and, in fact, completely absent in some translations. The word is associated with an experience of Christianity that has been harmful for Indigenous people.

Following an hour-long break for lunch, the meeting resumed.

**Address to the Court: President Elect Nominees**

President Jane introduced the president-elect nominees, Cheryl Bolton and Abiel Khalema. Each candidate addressed the court, prior to a vote being taken.

Utilizing paper ballots in person and zoom polling online, the regional council elected Abiel Khalema as President Elect.

Kenji Marui presented the slate for executive/commissions for 2022-2023. Some of those who offered to serve return for a second term. In future, renewal for a second three-year term will not need to come to the regional council meeting because people will have been selected by the regional council and not the Transition Commission.

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Kerry Stover

That the following be appointed to these offices:

Executive

Karlene Brown-Palmer, 2nd term

Treasurer, Doug Cameron, 2nd term

Diane Skomash, 2nd term

Covenant Commission

Mark Perry OM, 2nd term

Adam Kilner, 2nd term

Human Resources Commission

Carol Ferguson OM, 2nd term

Tracy Wygiera, 2nd term

Mission & Discipleship Commission

Richard Auckland, 2nd term

James Haupt OM, 2nd term

Robert Harris, 2nd term

Anthony Smith

Joshua Lawrence OM **CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Kenji Marui / Kerry Stover

That all paper ballots be destroyed. **CARRIED**

**Korea Peace Appeal**

The National Council of Churches in Korea has challenged The United Church of Canada to add 10,000 signatures to the *End the Korean War Campaign* by the summer of 2022. Regional council staff Kathy Douglas, Minister Faith Formation and Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister Social Justice, partnered with Yujene Oh of Thorold United Church and YongSeok Baek of St. David’s, Queenston, to outline the challenge to the UCC, provide an overview of the history of the Korean War and encourage the regional council to sign the petition.

**Community Building: Welcome Back**

Pam Wilcox led a second time of community building focusing on how to forge new working relationships with other communities of faith, specifically networks and clusters. Pam first outlined what networks and cluster are and what the difference is between the two.

Networks link people working on specific issues (e.g. supportive housing, intercultural ministry, youth ministry) or for project work (e.g. event planning) that function through the whole church, depending on the issue. Clusters are local gatherings of communities of faith that would provide community and support for communities of faith and their leaders, and focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, and strategic planning. Clusters can be formed by several communities of faith working together on projects or a common cause either short or long term. Some clusters cross provincial boundaries, depending on the projects which are more often local but can be global or national.

Participants then practiced the process of creating a cluster. Breakout groups online and table groups in persons selected one of 3 basic ideas and followed the steps provided to begin fleshing out the idea and forming a cluster.

**Licenced Lay Worship Leaders: Introduction and Covenanting**

The regional council covenanted with ARWRC newly Licenced Lay Worship Leaders, both online and in person. President Jane led the covenanting. Olav Kitchen, Chair of the Human Resources Commission and Mary Anne Silverthorn, LLWL Resource Team, presented those LLWL’s attending in person with a tippet and certificate.

Led by President Jane, the regional council then covenanted with newly elected and continuing members of the ARWRC executive and commissions.

“Save the Dates” information was shared: June 29, retirement party for Diane Blanchard, October 28 & 29, 2022, ARWRC Fall Meeting (online) and the May 12 & 13, 2023, ARWRC Spring Meeting (in person).

No unfinished or new business was brought forward.

**Closing Motions** (Proposal #2)

**MOTION** Kenji Marui / Kerry Stover

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its June 10-11, 2022 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 fall 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 June 10-11, 2022 meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministry Service on Saturday, June 11, 2022.  **CARRIED**

**Closing Reflection**

Michelle Owens reflected on unpacking white supremacist culture as we continue to work on anti-bullying. Mission – not just choosing another word, but looking deeply at what the word mission has been used to mean. And while we were excited to be back in person, Michelle asked those gathered, did you only talk to the people you know?

**Courtesies**

President Jane thanked all involved including the worship team of Greg Simpson and musician Marque Smith; Ridgetown staff Marlene and Joseph; the planning team of Kenji Marui, Louise Hall, Pam Wilcox, Kerry Stover. With particular thanks to Kenji Marui for his years of service, serving as Agenda and Business Committee Chair. Thanks also to regional council staff, the anti-bullying team, Michelle Owens, parliamentarian Brad Morrison and the tech team of Maynard Bauman and Fred Zehr, Spencer Simpson.

Deanna Gibson, Staff Support Committee member, thanked President Jane for her work and leadership.

**Benediction**

Greg Simpson closed the meeting with a benediction and extinguished the Christ Candle.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned.