**Executive**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

March 8, 2023 10 AM, via Zoom

**Roster:** Jane Van Patter (President), Abiel Khalema (President Elect), Richard Auckland, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Richard Dalton, Louise Hall, Brenda MacMain, Kenji Marui, Greg Simpson, Diane Skomash, Sandra Stock

**Staff Support:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Present:** Jane Van Patter, Abiel Khalema, Richard Auckland, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Richard Dalton, Brenda MacMain, Kenji Marui, Greg Simpson, Diane Skomash

**Regrets:** Doug Cameron, Sandra Stock

# Welcome, Introductions: President Jane welcomed Jenny and Bill and introductions were made.

# Constitute Meeting (President Jane)

# I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, as the one true head of the Church and by the authority vested in me by the Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

# Acknowledging the Land: Richard Auckland

**Opening Worship:** Brenda MacMain shared a Lenten reflection, including how her perception of Lent has developed over the years. She invited the gathering to think about, just for a moment, what is one thing they really want to hold onto, but is unhealthy and blocking spirit. Brenda then closed with prayer.

# Opening Agreements

## Consent Docket

## **MOTION** Richard Dalton / Abiel Khalema

## That the Consent Docket be accepted as distributed.

Any of the following matters that require discussion can be lifted from the consent docket and voted upon separately.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the meetings of February 8, 2023 and February 27, 2023 be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Executive Minister’s Accountability Report March 2023 (Received for information)

**CARRIED**

# Business Arising

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support: Greg Simpson. It is the time of year when annual reports are being submitted. The commission is working on standardizing some forms. Noted in response to a query by President Jane on behalf of a congregation: annual meetings can be held by zoom, email votes can be held but the vote should be on matters that have previously discussed or raised, and annual reports should be sent (via email) to Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support. Greg offered to respond by email to the congregation that raised the questions.
3. Human Resources: No report.
4. Discipleship & Justice: No report. Meeting March 9th, so will have more details at the April meeting of the Executive.
5. UCW: No report.
6. ARW Funeral Homes: Review wording of letter.

The Executive was in agreement with the wording and the tone as edited by Karlene Brown-Palmer.

**MOTION**: Richard Auckland / Greg Simpson

That the letter to funeral homes be prepared and sent to funeral homes within ARWRC.

**CARRIED**

President Jane thanked Karlene for her work on the letter.

Question raised by Brenda MacMain. If, when she retires, another minister is not put in place right away, does that mean she would have to walk away altogether. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa suggested that it would be a really good conversation for Brenda, someone from the HR Commission and Micol Cottrell, Minister Pastoral, to have with her church leadership before she goes to make sure there is no confusion.

1. Nominations/Recruitment: Confirm who may be continuing for a second term; potential commission/executive members (for info current list of commission/exec members with terms).

Staff passed on a note from Sandra Stock: she has contacted the Oxford churches, 17 of them, that do not have a representative. Several think that they do and she told them to be sure ChurchHub has that info.

Some say that they get the newsletter from ARWR and so they think that they must be a rep.

Richard Auckland said he ran into similar confusion; that some thought because they are getting a newsletter they are the rep. He encouraged them to actually appoint someone. It was confirmed that a community of faith council could appoint a rep and have that appointment confirmed at their next congregational meeting.

Greg Simpson will write a note to go with the Congregational Support Commission video he prepared, that can now be circulated. Cheryl-Ann asked that Greg share the video with Horseshoe Falls Congregational Support Commission, as they have expressed an interest in utilizing some of the content. sharing. Greg will write a note to accompany the video. Suggested wording to include: this newsletter has a wide distribution list and if the work of the regional council interests you, check if your congregation has a rep. If not, consider becoming involved.

Rick Dalton suggested changing the terminology used, as a way to alleviate confusion. It was agreed that community of faith representative would be clearer than lay rep.

Staff noted that commission/executive members whose first term is ending can continue for a second term without completing an expression of interest.

1. Update/support for Trinity U.C., London

Cheryl-Ann explained that there are two pieces to this item; the terms of the agreement executive offered need to be expanded and approval of the settlement agreement.

**MOTION**: Karlene Brown-Palmer / Richard Auckland

After consultation with Trinity United Church, London, the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive, agrees that $66,761.91 will be loaned to the congregation to settle the outstanding matter with Kathy Warren. The loan will be interest free for 24 months with a minimum payment of $375.00 per month. Interest will be calculated at 2% per annum after 24 months. The balance owing to be due or renegotiated after 96 months.

**CARRIED**

Cheryl-Ann noted the settlement agreement was entirely reviewed by legal counsel on our behalf.

**MOTION:** Abiel Khalema / Greg Simpson

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive agrees to the terms of the minutes of settlement established between Kathy Warren, Trinity United Church, London and The United Church of Canada as discussed and authorizes the Executive Minister to sign the agreement on the Executive’s behalf.

**CARRIED**

President Jane thanked Cheryl-Ann for her work on getting this matter resolved.

Question was asked, are any further measures needed in re: a previous minister’s involvement in the matter. It was agreed that as a vote was held by Trinity United Church, the resolution of the matter can move forward without any further action.

**New Business**

1. Proposal 1: Financial Statements

Treasurer Doug Cameron and Cheryl-Ann both reviewed the statements. It is anticipated that the 2022 audit will start within a month or two. Cheryl-Ann highlighted that the audit covers two years and that there is a surplus. She also noted that the property fund has grown, regretfully due to church closures/sales of property.

**MOTION** Richard Dalton / Kenji Marui

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive agrees to accept the Antler River Watershed Regional Council of The United Church of Canada Financial Statements as at December 31, 2021 for the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 as prepared by PWC and direct the President and Executive Minister to sign the same.

**CARRIED**

1. Proposal 2: Legacy Fund and Grants

Cheryl-Ann briefly reviewed the information included in the proposal.

**MOTION:** Diane Skomash / Brenda MacMain

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive approves Proposal 2: Legacy Fund and Grants as follows.

1. Agree to add $25,715., the regional council’s share of the cash proceeds from Fairmont U.C. disbanding, to the Vision Fund as initially decided in 2020 as of December 31, 2022 giving it a balance of $31,940

2. Confirm the balance as at January 1, 2023 in the following legacy funds:

Candidate Support Fund: $40,541

Engaging Stewardship Fund: $11,485

Institute for Specialized Ministry: $22,451

Middlesex Resource Centre Fund: $47,870

Ministry with Young and Young Adults: $30,467

Networks and Cluster Fund: $26,201

Rural Ministry Leadership Fund: $6,225

Vision Fund $31,940.

For total legacy funds of: $217,180

Note the Learning Fund is not included as it is established annually through the budget.

3. Confirm the balance available for grants in each fund for 2023 reflects no interest earned and is based on approved draws on the principal as follows:

Candidate Support Fund

$40,541-$2,000 per year a candidate is in school to a maximum of $6,000

Engaging Stewardship Fund

$11,485-no limit available to D&J Commission to promote M&S

Institute for Specialized Ministry

$22,451-up to 30% once every 2 years $6,735

Middlesex Resource Centre Fund

$47,870-up to 15% principal $7,180

Ministry with Young and Young Adults

$30,467-up to 15% principal $4,570

Networks and Cluster Fund

$26,201-up to 15% principal $3,930

Rural Ministry Leadership Fund:

$6,225-up to 15% principal $934

Vision Fund

$31,940-up to $15,000

4. Return $11,568 to The United Church of Canada Foundation with thanks for a final payment from the Fairfield trusts to cover Antler River Watershed’s contribution to the operation of Fairfield with the suggestion that the Foundation direct this towards reconciliation efforts.

**CARRIED**

**Regional Council Evaluation Team:** Jenny Stephens and Bill Allen

Jenny and Bill provided background on where they are at with the review and posed various questions to the Executive for input and feedback.

**Upcoming**

Executive: April 12, 2023, 10 am, zoom

Land Acknowledgement: Diane Skomash

Worship: tbd

**Adjournment**