

**Congregational Support Commission**  
**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

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

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**Place/Time:** 9:00 a.m. **Zoom Meeting**

**Roster:** Greg Simpson (DLM, Chair), Judith Fayter (OM), Adam Kilner (OM), Andi McKillop (L), Mark Perry (OM), Carey Wagner (DM), Dave Whiting (L), *(Jim Evans (OM) on med leave)*

**Staff Support:** Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support, [lallin@united-church.ca](mailto:lallin@united-church.ca); Pretima Kukadia, Admin, Communications, Records [pkukadia@united-church.ca](mailto:pkukadia@united-church.ca)

**Present:** Greg Simpson, Judith Fayter, Adam Kilner, Mark Perry, Carey Wagner, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia

**Regrets:** Andi McKillop, Dave Whiting

**Absent:**

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** Greg Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was then constituted and opened.

**Acknowledging the Land:** Territorial lands are acknowledged on behalf of the Congregational Support Commission by Greg Simpson:

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:** Adam Kilner reflecting on passing of Omega Bula. Reading from Amos 9:7 for worship. God is working even when we can't see it in front of us. We commend Omega into the realm of our ancestors. Thinking of Black History month. Truth is closer to transparency than to fact.

**Corresponding Member(s)**

**MOTION** by Adam Kilner / Carey Wagner that Jenny Stephens be made corresponding member(s) to this meeting.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION** by Carey Wagner / Adam Kilner that the agenda be accepted as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Consent Docket**

1. **Approval of Minutes** of January 4, 2023 be accepted as circulated.

2. **Email Poll** of January 25, 2023 to be recorded in the minutes

**MOTION** by Greg Simpson / Dave Whiting that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request from Central United Church, Windsor to extend the closing date of the sale of the church property up to two months later than the original date of January 25th.

3. **Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**

The following individuals are appointed as pastoral charge supervisor for the noted pastoral charge save for any pastoral relations meeting where the function is fulfilled by the Liaison appointed by the Human Resources Commission. The Liaison becomes the appointed PCS for the CoFs pastoral relations meeting.

- a. Steven Longmoore to Dawn Valley Oil Springs Pastoral Charge effective January 5, 2023.
- b. Wanda Winfield to Wallaceburg United Church effective January 23, 2023.
- c. Matthew Penny to New Vision St. Thomas for January 10, 2023 to cover a meeting.
- d. Anne Beattie-Stokes to Kilworth United Church effective February 1, 2023.
- e. Mary Dillon to Browns United Church retroactive to June 23, 2021.

4. **Annual Reports**

The Congregational Support Commission receives the following communities of faith 2022 Annual Reports with thanks:

South Buxton	Talbot Street
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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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----- End of Consent Docket -----

**MOTION** by Mark Perry / Adam Kilner that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**New Business**

1. **Siloam United Church: Property**

**MOTION** by Carey Wagner / Judith Fayter that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request from Siloam United Church, London to access up to \$20,000 from their restricted fund to support the creation of a Communication Specialist position.

**MOTION**

**DEFEATED**

**MOTION** by Carey Wagner / Judith Fayter that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council agree to table the request from Siloam United Church, London to access up to \$20,000 from their restricted fund to support the creation of a Communication Specialist position.

**MOTION**

**DEFERRED**

Lynne will send a request to Siloam United Church that the commission is waiting upon Community Faith Profile and/or Financial Profile and we are ready to fast-track this.

**Other Business**

1. **Executive Report:** Greg Simpson

Judith was approved as a commission member to the Congregational Support Commission.  
Commission name changes.

2. **Congregational Support Minister Report:** Lynne Allin

188 people attended the Deficit Dilemma Workshop. Recording has been posted onto website Toolkit #12. Seems to be a popular resource. Hope to do a few more workshops for resources for CoFs.

Putting together a workshop on Churchx for Pastoral Charge Supervisors. Going well between John Neff and Lynne Allin. Learning Churchx platform. Also, working on updating toolkits, some name changes of commission. Please let us know if you see anything that doesn't make sense in the toolkits.

South Kent churches (with Eric Skillings, Colin Swan) working on collaborating to get a shared minister and/or worship services among them, maybe a couple of circuits.

3. **Other Information/Discussion**

Congregational Support Introduction draft video by Greg at <https://youtu.be/UNI80iE7Ws0>. Please check it out.

Membership Decline Graph – Comparison against church denominations. The rate is surprisingly similar for 5 denominations.

Collecting Annual Report Data – Working on a spreadsheet to help collate data. Horseshoe Falls has created a template to help collate information.

Pastoral Charge Supervisor policy proposal – Who is going to pay for this, where will money come from, what are qualifications ... will look at this at March meeting.

#### 4. **Tri-Regional Evaluation:** Jenny Stephens

Jenny: I am grateful for this opportunity. An evaluation can make things transparent. Our 'Holding & Encouraging Communities of Faith' gets lived out through this commission especially.

Efficiency vs. effectiveness of our commission? How do we connect to 'Holding & Encouraging Communities of Faith?'

Greg: Our name change is a reflection of this. People mentioned that the regional council, or covenant commission were the heavy. It was felt that we came alongside only when there were problems. Communication is necessary for us to become involved. Our name now reflects what we do now, 'support.' For us it has always meant support, regardless of name. But we need to know what is going on. Sometimes they don't want to be accountable. We have worked with CoFs, we have worked on being nimble. We have worked on communicating our genuine desire to support.

Do we see a culture shift since the start of regional councils in 2019?

Lynne: There are those CoFs that are in contact with regional councils and CoFs that are not in contact. We can only work with those who are in contact.

Three values: Love unconditionally – Seek reconciliation – Risk courageously

Adam: Some events happen outside of regional council efforts, e.g., Unmarked graves honouring on Canada Day, when I'm out in public I wear the mantle of UC, sometimes people just want to complain about the regional council, those churches that have a mutual relationship with regional council benefit, with an increased ease of communicating.

Judith: Staff and commissions offer support and communication. How do we encourage risking courageously? Unsure, especially around property development.

Mark: If we don't have information and then require it for accountability, then this is a loving action, as CoFs need to go through these steps so they know what they're getting into. Like with Kindred Works, often when they get there they don't have 3 to 5 years left. Many churches don't bother with other courts until they have a problem and are thankful that regional council and UC are there to assist.

Greg: A risk-adverse commission would adhere strictly to policy. We allow for 'massaging,' for particular circumstances, and are willing to work with CoFs to get to being within policy. This is also a very loving way of being in relationship.

Also, how are we: Being Affirming and Anti-Racist?

Greg: Not being 'just about buildings.' Gender-neutral washrooms opens up conversations. Adam's evocative opening worship spoke to being anti-racist very elegantly.

When does Executive step in?

Greg: I had an experience with a conversation around x amount of money used in building modifications, we brought it to Executive and the response was, "You're not allowed to make this decision." This started a healthy conversation between Executive and the commission, and we learned, as we do with interactions with Executive in the other two regional councils.

Judith: There was a time, during transition, that Lynne made many decisions, then nudged the commission to take over these decisions. Transition Commissions were temporary, then tasks were handed to commissions. Added flexibility.

Where is ARW in the change curve?

Judith: We have two lay people on this commission. How do we connect with and grow lay leaders? Where is the next generation of leadership? Jenny asks where we find Pastoral Charge Supervisors as they don't need to be ministry?

Greg: How do we encourage lay representation? After Covid, lack of ministry personnel and struggle with overwork.

Anything else?

Judith: I feel that sharing staff gives staff a broader vision which is a real strength.

Carey: Wonders how Cheryl-Ann gets anything done with so much on the table.

Lynne: Found the scope of work was overwhelming at start of regional councils and is entirely grateful to commission members.

Commission members can send questions or comments to [stephensjenny454@gmail.com](mailto:stephensjenny454@gmail.com).

**Next Meeting:** March 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

**Worship by:** Dave Whiting

**MOTION** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

**MOTION**

**AGREED**