

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

Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

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)

Staff Support: Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support, lallin@united-church.ca;
Pretima Kukadia, Admin, Communications, Records pkukadia@united-church.ca

Present: Dave Whiting (Acting-Chair), Judith Fayter, Adam Kilner, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Carey Wagner, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia

Absent: Greg Simpson

Regrets:

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Dave Whiting 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 Dave Whiting:

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 from lectionary reading on the weekend about the transfiguration story. Jesus and disciples go up mountain, is changed in appearance. Transfiguration can be like liberation theology, which originated in South America in the 1960s to liberate people from oppressions. We are challenged to see Jesus beyond his earthly appearance. Jesus' mission to liberate all from oppression, especially those who are marginalized. This worship was based on an inquiry to ChatGPT. AI-based program sought out millions of sources and liberation theology was the connection that it suggested for today's worship. A useful, new tool still in development. Can make connections, but not original thought.

Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION

CARRIED

Matter Arising – Passing of The Rev. Jim Evans

It is with the deepest sorrow that we learned of the passing of The Rev. James Evans. The Congregational Support Commission wishes to express our gratitude to Jim for his many contributions to this commission. His wisdom, friendship and joyful spirit have been a gift to our work and to the members of the commission.

We express our condolences and sympathies to Jim’s family and to the community of faith family of New Vision United Church in St. Thomas.

MOTION by Adam Kilner / Andi McKillop that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approves of up to \$200 towards supporting the family and congregation of New Vision United Church, St. Thomas upon the passing of The Rev. Jim Evans.

MOTION

CARRIED

Consent Docket

1. **Approval of Minutes** of February 1, 2023 be accepted as amended.
2. **Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**
 - a. Pirie Mitchell as pastoral charge supervisor for Chalmers United Church, Kintore, effective March 1, 2023.
 - b. Wendy Noble as pastoral charge supervisor for Trinity United Church London, March 6, 2023.

3. **Annual Reports**

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

Belmont United Church	St. Andrew’s United Church, Brooksdale
Cottam United Church	Norwich United Church
Talbotville United Church	Avondale United Church, Tillsonburg
St. Paul’s United Church, Tillsonburg	Corunna United Church
Dunwich United Church	Charing Cross Pastoral Charge
College Avenue United Church, Woodstock	Villages United Church, Granton

4. **Financial Update** to be received with thanks:

Darrel S. Moffat United Church, Tilbury	

5. **Community of Faith Profiles** to be received with thanks:

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----- End of Consent Docket -----

MOTION by Mark Perry / Judith Fayter that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

1. **Talbotville United Church: Property**

MOTION by Adam Kilner / Carey Wagner that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the lease of the Manse 10744 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, Ontario N5P3T2 to Mathew Purdy and Alyssa McGregor for \$2000 per month with the tenant to pay Hydro, Gas and Internet/Cable expenses. This agreement to be in effect from 2023-04-01 until 2024-03-31.

MOTION

CARRIED

Other Business

1. **Executive Report:** Greg Simpson

No report.

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

Siloam United Church, London: Would like permission to use restricted funds to hire a communications specialist. We have requested current supporting documents, a minimum of the Financial Viability Report.

Tilbury Quinn sent a one-page Asset Inventory Report as to their possible future. Meeting of South Kent United Churches Gathering.

Day Away: Horseshoe Falls has chosen a Saturday to meet and explore 'big picture' projects. Saturday, April 29 has been reserved. ARW could book a weekday if commission members are available. What do we want to discuss? How are we carrying out our mission and purpose. Greg's church, St. Andrew's in Chatham, is a good central location for our meeting.

Would like to see a quarterly finance report of this commission as we incur various costs. There is now a spreadsheet of financial expenses that we have agreed upon: this document, *ARW CSC Expenses 2023*, is in the Congregational Support Commission Dropbox.

3. **Pastoral Charge Supervisor Policy:** Lynne Allin

Discuss the PCS Payment Policy at the April meeting, or possibly set aside a meeting time for a longer discussion.

4. **Annual Report Review:** Lynne Allin

John Neff has created a process whereby annual reports are completed and upon submission are directly uploaded to SharePoint and then are available as an Excel sheet for review.

Do congregations have lay reps? Do congregations have trustees? Many need to be updated to bring CoFs to current standards. We need a few commission members to review the Annual Reports. We should receive 150, we actually receive about 50. Hoping for 75 this year.

5. **Congregational Support Video:** Greg Simpson

<https://youtu.be/UNI80iE7Ws0>

Greg put together this incredible resource for the Congregational Support Commission. We have a request from Horseshoe Falls to adapt the video to include their regional council.

6. **Other Information**

Difference between the roles of staff member and commission members. It is a very busy time as two or three congregations are in the process of closing, Wesley United Church is looking at a nesting agreement. These are time-consuming tasks (for Lynne Allin). Central United Church is looking to amalgamate with Emmanuel United Church.

We can discuss what the commission members can do to reduce some tasks from staff. We are needing to develop lay leadership. We also need pastoral charge supervisors, at Comber United Church and Hillman United Church. When pastoral charge supervisors receive a fee for their work, this may garner more involvement. These positions require skills and commitment.

What do we do with churches with non-UCC people filling in? Occasional services are alright, but what is occasional? LLWLs may serve three services in one congregation consecutively, but there is no stipulation of how many times a year they can preach there. Slippery slopes happen and CoFs can start to see a regular as *their minister*. Wendell Phipps, a Latter-day Saints minister, started occasionally ministering, but has been doing more and more services, almost regularly.

This leads to many questions: of polity, and how far from UCC some ministers can be; CoFs need to be aware that there is no insurance coverage if these ministers become liable for transgressions. This liability is entirely on the Trustees.

Worship Committees are not the hiring arm of a congregation. Hiring decisions for coverage can be made by the worship committee and not go to the board or council. This can create a slide that bypasses standard policies. LDS is not in communion with UCC.

We need to create a document that clarifies CoFs vulnerability/liability so CoFs can make informed decisions. Regional Council would not be liable in situations outside of our policies.

We are in need of a Pastoral Charge Supervisor to cover an employment issue in London, with some complexities. Mount Zion United Church in London also needs a PCS. Charmain Bailey is on medical leave. Maybe policies should be strengthened?

Avondale United Church, called a minister from Winnipeg, who became ill at the start of the call and the start will now be delayed. Started January 1, 2023 and Avondale is covering the STD portion.

Discussion of Kindred Works Information Session. Was it recorded? Is it available to view?

Next Meeting: April 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Mark Perry

MOTION that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

MOTION

AGREED