**ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL COUNCIL OF**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

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

**ARWRC Fall 2022 Meeting**

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

**Minutes of October 28 and October 29, 2022**

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet online via Zoom on October 28 and October 29, 2022 with approximately 120 total participants online in attendance each day.

***Meeting Session: Friday, October 28, 6:30 – 8:30 PM***

**Welcome**

President Jane Van Patter welcomed all to the October, 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**

Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice and Right Relations, introduced herself as the Equity Support Team Member for the meeting, shared BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety and raised up the Affirm Statement. Thérèse invited those gathered to also be attentive to equity; to share with Thérèse if they notice something is not being addressed or, on the flip side, if something being addressed is helpful.

President Jane introduced the meeting leadership.

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

**MOTION:** Kerry Stover / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Antler River Watershed adopt the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as amended and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary;
2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2022-06-10-11;
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

2022-09-07

2022-06-15

2022-04-13

1. Covenant Commission;

2022-06-01

2022-05-27

2022-05-04

2022-04-26

2022-04-06

1. Human Resources Commission

2022-07-20

2022-06-23

2022-06-07

2022-05-10

2022-04-12

1. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2022-06-14

for information.

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

1. Confirm the appointment of Carey Wagner to the Covenant Commission;
2. Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;
3. Appoint Kerry Stover as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
4. Name Thérèse Samuel to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
5. Name President Jane Van Patter, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Kerry Stover, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
6. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;
7. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call and the Best Western Stoneridge, London, ON;
8. 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);
9. Make all guests corresponding members;
10. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 29, 2022.
11. Receive all written reports in the workbook.
12. 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.

**Community Building: *“Happiness is Making Friends”***

Pam Wilcox introduced a time of community building for those gathered through good old-fashioned conversation and free chat in breakout rooms online.

**Hope Council**

A video was shared by Art Hiley, President of the Hope Council, outlining projects that have received support from the Council. An incorporated ministry, financial support provided by the Hope Council is intended for ministries within the bounds of Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

**Winter is Coming: The HUB Housing Justice Podcasts**

Adam Cresswell highlighted a new project from The HUB: The HUB Housing Justice Podcasts which discuss how to go from housing crisis to housing justice. Clips from a recent podcast were shared. Adam noted that the HUB is looking for partners in this project, to help inform and advance the cause of housing justice.

**Tri-Region Governance Review**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided some background on the Regional Council Governance Review, as well as an update on the review. The timeline of the review has shifted to Spring 2023 to benefit from outside facilitation. Jenny Stephens and Bill Allen will lead the evaluation.

A short break was taken.

**GC44 Reporting**

President Jane Van Patter listed the ARWRC GC44 commissioners. Commissioner Colin Swan shared a brief overview of the process. Commissioners Gabrielle Heidinger and Shane McDowell highlighted proposals and Commissioner Olav Kitchen shared his perspective on GC44. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa spoke about the results of the ARWRC proposals sent forward to GC44, noting no further action will be taken re: ARWRC’s proposals. Cheryl-Ann also mentioned the remit package that will be distributed the beginning of March 2023, in regards to Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

Agenda and Business Chair Kerry Stover thanked the GC44 Commissioners for their work and reminded meeting participants of the deadline for new business: Saturday, October 29 at 9:00 AM.

**Closing Worship** was led by Greg Simpson and Marque Smith.

The meeting closed at 8:31 PM, with a planned resumption at 9:00 AM, Saturday, October 29, 2022.

***Meeting Session: Saturday, October 29, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM***

President Jane welcomed all to the meeting.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Greg Simpson invited all to share in the Zoom comments, names of Indigenous writers, authors, and organizations.

L**ighting of Christ Candle, Call to Worship and Worship:** Greg Simpson and Marque Smith led worship.

**Budget (Proposal #2)**

Treasurer Doug Cameron reviewed the proposal and responded to questions raised. Noted: the bottom of the budget contains a Mission Support Grant line. Doug explained also, in response to a question about the projected negative budget, that while the budget does show a negative, in the last three years the regional council has never been in the red in any year. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa added that every year there has been a planned deficit but the regional council has yet to show a deficit. This is seen as a transition year, where the regional council may need to borrow from savings to meet the operating deficit in 2023. But it is anticipated there will be no deficit in 2024. Also noted, the regional council has no investments in fossil fuels.

**MOTION:** Doug Cameron / Kerry Stover

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council

1. Receive the internal 2022 operating statement to date for information;

2. Direct the Executive to deal with the 2021 Auditors’ Report;

3. Direct the Executive to include the 2020 and 2021 final Financial Statements in the workbook for the spring 2023 meeting; and

4. Endorse the following principles for the 2023 budget:

1. To maintain existing Executive and Commission meeting budgets even with the increase in the reimbursement rate to promote a reduction in carbon through the practice of electronic meetings;
2. To reflect the changes in salaries and benefits authorized by the General Council Executive;
3. To base costs on the figures from the last three years and not the amount anticipated at formation of the regional council;
4. To fund expenses for matters involving The Manual, Section J; Oversight and Discipline, from the Unrestricted Operating Reserve as these fluctuate in number and cost; and

5. Adopt the proposed 2023 budget authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.

**CARRIED.**

**Introduction of Brenna Baker, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Team Member**

A video was shared introducing Brenna Baker, new Community of Faith Stewardship Support Team Member. As a member of the General Council Philanthropy Unit, deployed in the region, Brenna consults with congregations and individuals around all areas of Stewardship and generosity including: congregational giving programs, Mission & Service, Planned Legacy Giving, and the United Church Foundation.

**UCC Protect: Erik Mathiesen**

Erik Mathiesen, Executive Officer, Finance, shared information on the new insurance program, UCC Protect. Effective December 1, 2022, The United Church of Canada will launch an insurance program aimed at providing United Church ministries with more affordable and accessible property and liability insurance coverage. Erik answered some general questions about the program, noting there will be a communication for each renewal group, and explaining some of the structure. Further details and FAQs are provided on the UCC website: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/local-administration/group-insurance/ucc-protect#downloads>. More questions can be directed to [uccinsurance@united-church.ca](mailto:uccinsurance@united-church.ca)

**Update to Proposal from Fall 2021 (funeral homes)**

Tanya Cameron, Office of Vocation Minister, and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided an update. Contact information for funeral homes has been assembled and wording finalized of the letter to be sent. Noted, that the regional council seems to be asking funeral homes to ensure ministry personnel are doing the right thing. The Retiring with Grace webinar from United in Learning was recommended as a resource. Tanya also discussed elements of oversite and outlined progressive discipline steps/conversations.

There was a brief 5 minute break.

**Covenant Commission**

Chair Greg Simpson introduced a lively quiz, incorporating key elements of the Covenant Commission’s role, reviewing the answers with the meeting participants. Chair Greg Simpson highlighted some of the exciting work of the commission, encouraging participants to get involved with Commission work.

**Human Resources Commission**

A video report from Chair Olav Kitchen highlighting the Commission’s work was shared.

**Mission & Discipleship Commission**

Chair Richard Auckland provided a video report on the ongoing work of the Commission. Following the video Chair Richard thanked the staff and the commission members for their work and support.

Meeting participants were invited to ask questions they might have for the Commissions. In response to a question about liaisons and community of faith profiles, Lynne Allin, Congregational Support Minister, noted that community of faith profiles are reviewed by the Covenant Commission. If there is a serious concern it will be addressed before approvals are given. Lynne added that it was a discussion for beyond this meeting and something to be discussed between the Covenant and Human Resources Commissions. Lynne encouraged liaisons to request a copy of the community of faith profile from the community of faith.

In response to a remark that the expression of interest seems based on a business model; it was explained that it is based on GC’s nomination process, not a business model. Concrete, constructive feedback that would help folks get involved, would be welcomed.

Cheryl-Ann spoke to the opportunity to do work in the wider church as invaluable to the church and not just an expectation, but a benefit.

A 15 minute break was taken.

**Community Building 2: *“Called to Be the Church – Really??”***

Pam Wilcox led a second time of community building that focused on the question, why does each Commission and sub committees of Commissions have vacancies. Meeting participants were invited to identify, in breakout rooms, the barriers to serving at the region and brainstorm how these barriers might be overcome and what might it take to recruit you to serve in the region.

**In Memoriam**

With thanksgiving for the ministry they offered and for the witness they provided, the regional council remembered Jane Dockrill, Rev. Donald E. Hansford, and Rev. James "Bruce" Small.

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

The regional council recognized the disbandments of North Nissouri United Church, Oxford Centre United Church and Curries United Church with thanks for their ministry and years of service.

The regional council highlighted the following name changes: Welburn Pastoral Charge to Browns Pastoral Charge, and Guild’s Pastoral Charge to Rondeau Pastoral Charge, and the amalgamation and name change of Ridge Community United Church and New Scotland United Church, now called New Scotland-Ridge United Church, Rondeau Pastoral Charge.

**Honouring our Retiree**

A video reflection honoured ARWRC retiree Wanda Burse.

Jane shared a prayer of thanks for all.

**Closing Motion (Proposal #3)**

**MOTION:** Kerry Stover / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its October 28-29, 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 spring of 2023; 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 October 28-29, 2022 meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the end of the Saturday, October 29, 2022 session.

**CARRIED.**

**Equity Support Team Member Reflection**

Thérèse Samuel reflected on some equity matters that she noticed. The presence of non-Indigenous leadership and not visible Indigenous presence – not good or bad, and tokenism can have limited value.

The acknowledgement of territory has grown to lifting up and naming of gifts and experiences, hope can continue to grow and that is hopeful. Maybe the next step is to take time to listen and not be beholden to timekeepers; more freedom to be relationship builders. As our relationships grow our equity grows. Therese encouraged those gathered to send a note to her if they have any particular equity concerns to share.

**Courtesies**

President Jane expressed her deep gratitude and thanks to the staff at the Best Western Stoneridge, the tech support team of John Neff, Michele Petick and Pretima Kukadia-Kinting; the chaplains, Thérèse Samuel, Pam Wilcox, Kerry Stover, Louise Hall; the awesome music leadership from Marque Smith and meaningful and inspiring worship leadership from Greg Simpson, and the work of recording secretary Sue Duliban and Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. President Jane also acknowledged and thanked everyone of those who attended.

**Thank you to President**

Kenji Marui thanked President Jane for keeping calm and rocking on. For inviting the regional council to fear not, be bold and courageous. For championing the work of ARWRC at GC 44. And for her dedication, commitment, prayerful presence and quick sense of humour.

**Closing Worship**

Greg Simpson and Marque Smith led closing worship.

The meeting closed with a blessing from President Jane and a video benediction offered by Moderator Carmen Lansdowne at her installation.

Adjournment: 12:49 PM