**Executive**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**MINUTES**

**September 13, 2023, 10 AM via zoom**

**Roster:** Cheryl Bolton (President), Jane Van Patter (Past President), Richard Auckland, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron (Treasurer), Richard Dalton, Louise Hall, Brenda MacMain, Greg Simpson, Diane Skomash, Sandra Stock

**Staff Support:** Mark Laird, Acting Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Present:** Cheryl Bolton, Jane Van Patter, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Louise Hall, Diane Skomash, Richard Auckland, Greg Simpson

**Regrets:** Doug Cameron, Brenda MacMain

**Welcome/Constitute Meeting:** President Cheryl

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

**Acknowledging the Land:** Richard Auckland shared the Land Acknowledgement prepared by the Commission. He noted in his report that this factually is accurate for any lands within ARWRC. The Land Acknowledgement is fluid and will be presented with a personal touch. It is not rote, but is from the heart. It can be used as a template and made more specific to your area.

“We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of a number of First Nations and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. This Land known as Antler River Watershed, was once occupied by the Anishinabek, the Lenae-Lenapewauk, the Haudenosaunee, the Potawatomi, the Odawa, and the Chonnoton who used these lands as their traditional gathering, hunting and congregating place. Let us also recognize our closest neighbours from these nations: The Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, The Munsee-Delaware Nation, the Oneida Nation of the Thames, Walpole Island, Moravian of the Thames, Caldwell, Aamjiwnaang, and the Chippewas of Stony and Kettle Point. We are but a people in transition as we are on this earth for a short time. Help us to be good caretakers of this land, Creator. As well, we seek a new, a better relationship with the Previous and Future Occupiers of this land, and the land itself, one based in honour and deep respect.”

**Opening Worship:** President Cheryl introduced the theme for the next two years; Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect” and offered a prayer.

**Opening Agreements**

Consent Docket

MOTION: Jane Van Patter / Richard Auckland

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:

1. Enabling Actions
2. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
3. That the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting be approved as distributed.
4. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.
5. Confirmation of email votes

July 21, 2023

Fairmont

MOTION: Richard Auckland / Louise Hall

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council directs that the regional council's share of the funds from Fairmont U.C. in the amount of $25,714.85 be transferred from the Property Fund to the Vision Fund of the regional council. CARRIED.

July 21, 2023

Fairfield

MOTION: Jane Van Patter / Louise Hall

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed return the December 31, 2022 balance in the Fairfield Museum Fund of $11,568 to The United Church of Canada Foundation with thanks for their generous assistance with the funding the Museum. CARRIED.

June 29, 2023

MOTION: Doug Cameron / Diane Skomash

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council directs the General Council to sell the property known as Jeanette's Creek Sunday School and to direct the proceeds as agreed upon by the Executive in its meeting of 2023-02-08. CARRIED.

1. Correspondence Received

Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Omnibus motion – September 13, 2023

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Executive take the following action:

1. East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)

  …pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO) 2023-2024 Board of Directors

  Sharon Ashton

Sandra Bendall

Ruth Campbell

Debbie Gillingwater

Elma Johnston

Carol Langford

Ann MacPhail

Frieda Owen

Linda Petronis

Judy White

Sara Willems

Bonita Wright

*This is based on the draft AGM minutes of April 5, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.*

1. Retreat and Camp Corporation of Essex Presbytery, The United Church of Canada o/a Gesstwood Camp

  ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Retreat and Camp Corporation of Essex Presbytery, The United Church of Canada 2023-2024 Board of Directors

   Tracy Armstrong

Ron Brown

Barb Chandler

Bill Hissink

Shirley Horton

Nancy Leavoy

Katelyn McPherson

Georgeann Welsh

*This is based on the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April 20, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.*

1. United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery operating as Hope Council of Antler River Watershed Region

  … pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery 2023-2024 Board of Directors

    Steve Britton

Paul Browning

Mary Dillon

Mary Margaret Farrow

Dorothy Ann Foster

Art Hiley

Rob Hockin

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Articles of Amendment for United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery and the name change to Hope Council of Antler River Watershed Region as approved by the members on May 25, 2023 of the incorporated ministry known as United Church Council of Middlesex Presbytery operating as Hope Council of Antler River Watershed Region.

*These are based on the draft Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2023, the 2023 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.*

*This Incorporated Ministry can make this change once the Province approves and it continues to work on its by-laws to ensure they meet ONCA requirements.*

1. Windsor Essex United Church Development Fund, The United Church of Canada formerly Essex Presbytery Development Fund, The United Church of Canada

 ……pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Windsor Essex United Church Development Fund, The United Church of Canada 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Fred Barkhouse

Catherine Collins-Barker

Ronald Cox

Kim Gilliland

Elaine Mailloux

Alan Parnell

John van Omme

*This is based on the Minutes of WEUCDF/EPDF Annual Meeting of December 3, 2020, the 2020 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.*

*Staff are working with this Incorporated Ministry to become compliant with the IM policy.*

# Business Arising

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support: Chair Greg Simpson noted that the commission is in the midst of living more deeply into its new name. Over the next 3 or 4 months, will be assigning communities of faith to commission members to contact in the hope of deepening relationships. Trying really hard to shift how address community of faith changes and how to support. That being said, most motions are approving sales of buildings, hope to be involved earlier in the process.
3. Human Resources: Louise Hall referred the Executive to the written report submitted. Louise then shared she is personally concerned about pressure being put on staff, that she feels all staff are being pushed to the limit. It was noted that to lighten the burden as a result of the regional council evaluation, Kathy Douglas will be doing ARW Discipleship and Justice meetings, Thérèse Samuel - WOW, John Egger – Horseshoe Falls.

Acting Executive Minister Mark Laird, suggested that, maybe a way forward would be for commissions to consider checking and seeing if it’s something a commission member can do, when a staff person says “I will do that”. President Cheryl noted suggestions from staff on how to lighten the load are welcome.

1. Discipleship & Justice: Chair Richard Auckland referred the Executive to the written report submitted. It was noted that the Mission and Service grant amount will not be provided by GCO until later in September.
2. UCW: No report
3. Volunteer Recruitment Team
4. Membership: Arising from last month’s meeting when it was agreed to have at least one representative from each commission and one from Executive to form a Volunteer Recruitment Team, with commissions to seek a representative to sit on the team. Diane Skomash (Executive) and Mary Anne Silverthorn (Human Resources), have volunteered to serve.
5. Mandate: A mandate developed by another regional council was shared for information and as a starting point. Discussion of that template led to detailed questions and discussion about various individual points included in the document.

It was noted that the regional council has not been able to have support/persons on all the commissions and there has not yet been a full slate on the executive. Therefore, it was suggested that the recruitment team be given the work of reviewing the template, coming up with a mandate and bringing it back to Executive. It was agreed that this would be a good way to move forward.

Acting Minister Mark added that at the ARWRC fall meeting, the regional council will have to decide how it will elect GC commissioners in the spring of 2024. Presenting a slate, would be in keeping with the structure for election of Executive/Commission members agreed to at the ARWRC Spring 2023 meeting.

It was agreed to bring forward the Volunteer Recruitment Team mandate and how to elect GC Commissioners at the Spring 2024 meeting, to the next ARW Executive meeting on October 11 at Lambton Centre. Also agreed that the Recruitment Team membership will be approved after there is a mandate developed.

1. Executive/Commissions Orientation: October 11, Lambton Centre

Plan for the day: Executive starts at 9, 10:30 orientation for Executive/Commissioners, lunch, individual commissions meet.

Staff will liaise with Louise Hall regarding lunch details. Staff will be sending out a registration form, so that numbers for lunch can be confirmed.

1. Fall 2023 Regional Council Meeting
2. Planning

Planning team:

Kerry Stover A&B

Pam Wilcox: community building

Brad Morrison: parliamentarian

George Bozanich: Equity support team member: George Bozanich

Greg Simpson: worship/music

President Cheryl will schedule a meeting of the planning team.

1. Spring 2024 Tri-Regional Council Meeting
   1. Person to serve on tri-regional planning team with President Cheryl: Greg Simpson volunteered.

Jane Van Patter volunteered to help plan the ARWRC only portion.

**New Business**

1. Name representative from ARWRC Executive to attend Camp Tanner Special Board Meeting on October 13, Knox United Church, Embro. This will be a public meeting for all to attend and learn, share and offer support as Camp Tanner considers options. Jane Van Patter and Richard Auckland will attend.
2. Two expressions of interest received. It was agreed to send the orientation powerpoint to those who submitted an expression of interest. Review of the expressions of interest will be included on the October 11th Executive agenda.

President Cheryl closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: noon