**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

**Spring 2023 Hybrid Meeting Minutes**

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

Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13, 2023 via zoom and in person at the Best Western Stoneridge Inn, London. Approximately 60 participants joined online each day and 120 were present in person at the Best Western.

***Meeting Session: Friday May 12***

***10:30 AM – 8:30 PM***

Gathering music: Greg Simpson, Jody Mcdonald-Groulx

**Welcome & Constitute Meeting,**

President Jane Van Patter welcomed those gathered in person and online to the meeting.

President Jane then constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority vested in her by the Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of the meeting will be the Zoom call and the Best Western Stoneridge Inn, London, Ontario and the sanctuary of First United Church, St. Thomas, Ontario.

**BRAVE/Affirm Statement**

Equity Support Team Member George Bozanich introduced his role and raised up BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety and the tri-region Affirming Statement.

Agenda & Business Chair Kerry Stover reminded those gathered of the deadline for new business, Friday, May 12 at 4 PM.

**Proposal 1:** Opening and Procedural Motion

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

That the Regional Council 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 2022-10-28-29;
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

23-03-08

23-02-27

23-02-08

23-01-11

22-11-26

22-10-12

1. Congregational Support Commission

2023-03-29

2023-03-01

2023-02-01

2023-01-04

Covenant Commission

2022-12-21

2022-12-07

2022-11-02

2022-10-12

2022-09-07

2022-08-17

2022-07-06

1. Human Resources Commission

2023-03-14

2023-02-14

2023-01-10

2022-12-13

2022-11-08

2022-10-11

2022-09-13

2022-08-09

1. Discipleship and Justice Commission

2023-01-10

Mission & Discipleship Commission

2022-11-09

2022-10-18

2022-09-07

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

1. Confirm the appointment of Judith Fayter to the Congregational Support Commission;
2. Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;
3. Appoint Kerry Stover as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
4. Name George Bozanich 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 Inn & Conference Centre, 6675 Burtwistle Lane, London, ON N6L 1H5 and the sanctuary of First United Church, St. Thomas.
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 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 12, 2023.
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.**

President Jane introduced the meeting leadership team.

**Land Acknowledgement, Call to Worship, Lighting of Christ Candle, Worship**

Greg Simpson led opening worship and shared and reflected on how ARWRC got its name.

President Jane invited those attending their first Regional Council meeting, as willing, to introduce themselves (both in person and on zoom).

Grace: Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor. The meeting then broke for lunch.

**Welcome back**

Following the lunch break, President Jane welcomed back all those gathered, on zoom and in person.

**Moderator’s Message**

A video message to Antler River Watershed Regional Council from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne was presented.

**Proposal 2: Recruiting the Regional Council Executive and Commissions**

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

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees

1. To endorse the Executive’s action in naming a recruitment team to bring a slate for election at this meeting of the Regional Council.
2. Authorize the Executive to establish a mandate for a recruitment team and add this to the Governance Handbook;
3. to appoint members to this team and
4. to establish the practice of bringing a diverse slate of members for election to the regional council Executive and Commissions at the spring meeting of the regional council. **CARRIED.**

***Community Building Session 1: Fear Not! Be Brave and Courageous!***

Pam Wilcox, Community Building Facilitator, invited those gathered to discuss and talk about, in zoom breakout rooms and at their table groups, serving on a commission or the executive; what is stopping you? How might you live into the theme “Fear Not, Be Bold and Courageous”, and serve at the regional level.

**Proposal 3: President-Elect**

The regional council confirmed Cheryl Bolton, one of last year’s nominees, as its new President-Elect. Abiel Khalema, who was elected last year, has needed to step away from the role for personal reasons.

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

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council elect Rev. Cheryl Bolton as its President-Elect to be installed as President at the Celebration of Ministry at this meeting and to serve until the spring 2025 meeting of the Regional Council. **CARRIED.**

For clarification: the president serves two years and will then be past president. A president elect will be voted upon at the spring 2024 meeting.

President-Elect Cheryl addressed the court, reflecting on this time as a time of renewal, a time to connect, rebuild relationship, as an opportunity to do a new thing.

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel on ‘*Congregational Ministry’***

Rev. Kenji Marui introduced Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel. Rev. Dr. Daniel spoke, with wit and wisdom, on her understanding of the church’s current reality and our purpose.

A short break was taken.

**Introduction of Candidates**

Tanya Cameron, Vocational Minister for ARWRC, introduced in turn ARWRC candidates, Jennifer Prince and Nancy Vandendberghe, with a biography of their experience, learning & beliefs.

**Candidates Address the Court**

Jennifer Prince and Nancy Vandenberghe individually shared their answer to the question asked of them by President Jane; that they reflect on how they are living into the ARWRC theme, “Fear not! Be Bold and Courageous!” in their ministry.

Nancy Vandenberghe will be recognized as a Designated Lay Minister and will be serving at College Avenue United Church, Woodstock. Jennifer Prince will be commissioned as a Diaconal Minister and will be serving at Metropolitan United Church and Richards Memorial United Church, London.

**UCC Foundation: Sarah Charters (online) and Ryan Baxter (in person)**

Ryan Baxter and Sarah Charters explained the work and grants of The United Church of Canada Foundation. A powerpoint presentation was shared on the UCC Foundation which provides services to United Church members and all courts of the church. The Foundation’s purpose is to foster deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice by attracting and deploying financial resources.

**Stewardship Offerings: Brenna Baker**

Brenna Baker, Community of Faith Stewardship Support, spoke on getting started in Stewardship, prefacing her presentation by asking those gathered to think of a time when someone asked you to do something in a rather meaningful way and why you did it.

**In Memoriam**

A video presentation honoured “friends, colleagues & leaders” who guided & served the church with their living:

Rev. Doreen Doyle Canavan

Rev. Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Chapman

Rev. James (Jim) Evans

Glenda MacMillan

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

A video presentation honoured the following communities of faith.

*Disbandment*

With thanks for their legacy and faithful service

Ravenswood United Church, Lambton Shores

Fourth Line United Church, Blenheim

St. Paul’s United Church, Sarnia

*Amalgamation and Name Change.*

With blessings as these communities of faith continue their ministries together

Victoria Avenue and St. Paul’s United Churches amalgamated to form

St. Paul’s – Victoria Avenue United Church, Chatham

Rural United Pastoral Charge

*Working towards amalgamation*

Parkhill United Church and Thedford United Church

**Anniversaries & Jubilands**

The following anniversaries of Ordination, Admission, Commissioning, and Recognition were celebrated:

*10 Years*

Sandra Bendall OM

Melodie Lovering DLM

Christopher Mazhandu OM

Laurie O’Leary OM

Pamela Wilcox DLM

*15 Years*

Wanda Burse OM

Carl Emke OM

Donna Kerrigan OM

Diane Macpherson OM

Jill Rogers OM

Paul Vollick DLM

*20 Years*

Deanna Gibson OM

Steven Longmoore OM

C. Mark Perry OM

*25 Years*

Gregory Brawn OM

Brenda MacMain DLM

Bonnie Pilkey OM

Janelle Towle DM

*30 Years*

Jeralyn Towne OM

*35 Years*

Sheila Macgregor OM

Colin Swan OM

Catherine Tovell OM

*40 Years*

Constance Capes-Leslie DM

David Duncan OM

Judith Fayter OM

Donald Keenliside OM

John van Omme OM

Doug Wright OM

*45 years*

Craig Drummond OM

Our Jubilands were celebrated

*50 years*

Lorenzo Ramirez OM

*50+ Years*

52

Wilbert Dawson OM

Joseph Driskill OM

53

Kenneth Jackson OM

David McKane OM

John Palmer OM

56

Maurice Francis OM

57

John Brown OM

58

William Stephenson OM

61

Glen Wright OM

63

Arthur Woitte OM

65

R. Edward Sam OM

67

Norman Jones OM

D. Blain Thierry OM

71

Lewis Snow OM

President Jane offered a prayer of thanks for those named.

Grace: Gabrielle Heidinger. The meeting then broke for supper and gathered after supper at 7 PM for a remit education session.

**Remit Education: Thérèse Samuel, Minister Social Justice**

Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Social Justice referred to the Remit resources in the meeting workbook and shared three videos. First a portion of a video conversation with Cathy Hird and Maggie Dieter, a non-linear way of learning through dialogue and story. The second video, a more linear learning format, was a powerpoint presenting background on the Remit. The final video was from Martha Pedoniquotte sharing a bit about herself and her role at GCO and what the Remit maybe means to Indigenous people in the United Church. Thérèse noted that the whole video presentation will be available to congregations by mid June.

Following the video was a time for questions; many of the questions focused on the process, the sharing of resources/education and specifics such as dates for votes. Resources will be shared throughout the regional council and with congregations. The fall 2023 meeting is when regional council will vote. Pastoral charges have up until March 31, 2024. In order to answer further questions, the order of the day was extended.

**MOTION:** Kerry Stover / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa: That the order of the day be extended by 15 minutes. **CARRIED.**

It was noted that the details of the remit are set and not up for debate; the question is whether if we agree with what was decided at GC44. Do we trust the decision made on our behalf.

The evening session closed with Vespers.

***Meeting Session:*  *Saturday May 13***

**8:45 AM – 3:15 PM**

Gathering music: Greg Simpson, Jody Mcdonald-Groulx

**Welcome**

President Jane welcomed all those gathered, on zoom and in person.

**Land Acknowledgement, Call to Worship, Lighting of Christ Candle, Worship**

Saturday morning worship was led by Greg Simpson.

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington on *“Eco-Theology”***

Marg Murray Introduction of Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington. Rev. Dr. Hetherington combined her scientific expertise with words of faith in a presentation that provided information and a clear call to action on climate action.

Following a brief break, Rev. Dr. Hetherington read a creation story and invited those gathered, in table groups and in breakout rooms, to share in a time of reflection.

**Proposal #5: Right Relations Save the Barn Campaign**

**MOTION**: Kerry Stover / Kenji Marui

That, pending the outcome of a feasibility study, Antler River Watershed Regional Council supports the “Save the Barn” campaign initiated by Chippewa of the Thames First Nation and guided by their direction.

Possible actions may include:

1. Encouraging Antler River Watershed Regional Council, through its Executive and its communities of faith and other church groups, to offer financial support;
2. creating and circulating land acknowledgements and other liturgical elements for use in worship services; and,
3. inviting interested persons to join the Antler River Watershed Regional Council’s Right Relations Network.

**CARRIED.**

**Introduction of Candidate**

Tanya Cameron, Vocational Minister for ARWRC, introduced candidate Andrew Gilliland, sharing a biography of his experience, learning & beliefs.

**Candidate Addresses the Court**

Andrew Gilliland shared his answer to the question asked of him by President Jane; that he reflect on how he ise living into the ARWRC theme, “Fear not! Be Bold and Courageous!” in his ministry. Andrew has a provisional call to Riverside United Church, Windsor and will be ordained.

Minister Faith Formation, Kathy Douglas, highlighted two events.

For kids across the regions: Heroes United: Find Your Super Powers on June 9 (7pm) – June 11 (11am), 2023 @ Camp Bimini and Refugee Advisory Network: Creating a refuge advisory network in all three regional councils on June 13 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm (via zoom).

Grace: Heather Walton. The meeting then broke for lunch.

The meeting resumed after lunch with gathering music from Greg Simpson, Jody Mcdonald-Groulx

President Jane welcomed back those gathered in-person and online.

**Queer Conversations** video

A video prepared by Hopelyn Butler was shared highlighting her project created for UCC Youth, “Queer Conversations”. A book formatted resource, it allows readers to explore the various aspects of the intersectionality between 2SpiritLGBTQIA+ communities and the Christian faith.

**Proposal #4: Executive/Commissions Slate**

**MOTION:** Kerry Stover / Kenji Marui

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees to approve the slate prepared by the Recruitment Team as presented:

*ARWRC May 2023*

*Executive/Commissions Slate*

Congregational Support Commission

Jim Stirling (lay)

Herb DeJong (lay)

Discipleship and Justice Commission

Jim Hatt (ministry personnel)

Lillian Patey (ministry personnel)

Doug Peck (ministry personnel)

**CARRIED**

**Covenanting with newly elected Executive/Commission members**

President Jane led a covenanting service with newly elected and continuing Executive & Commission members.

***Community Building Session 2: Homework***

Pam Wilcox, Community-Building Facilitator, asked everyone to identify what message, what highlights, they were taking back to share with the Council and congregation of their home community of faith.

**Unfinished or New Business:** There was no unfinished or new business brought forward.

**Save the Dates**

President Jane shared the following dates.

Fall 2023 Regional Council Meeting: Online only - October 27 & 28, 2023

Spring 2024 Tri-Regional Council Meeting: Hybrid - May 24, 25, 26, 2024,

at the UNIFOR Centre, Port Elgin

**President's Reflection**

President Jane reflected on her final meeting as president and her time as “pandemic president”.

**Courtesies**

President Jane thanked all those involved in preparing for, managing and running the meeting from Best Western Stoneridge staff to volunteers and regional council staff and all those who attended the meeting. She closed noting that we are not alone, we are a team ministry upholding and encouraging each other. Fear not, be bold and courageous.

**Thanking the President**

On behalf of the regional council, Human Resources Commission and Executive member Louise Hall thanked President Jane for her good humour and steady leadership, and presented a gift of handmade pottery mugs and sugar bowl, creamer.

**Proposal #6: Closing Motion**

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

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its May 12-13, 2023 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 fall 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 May 12-13, 2023 meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministry Service on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

**CARRIED**

The meeting closed with a Benediction from President Jane and extinguishing of the Christ Candle by Greg Simpson.

Adjournment.

Following the meeting the Celebration of Ministries Service and Installation of the new President was held at First United Church, 7 Curtis Street, St. Thomas.