**Executive**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes**

**November 8, 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, Greg Simpson, Diane Skomash, Sandra Stock

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

**Present:** Cheryl Bolton, Richard Auckland, Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron, Louise Hall, Diane Skomash, Sandra Stock

**Regrets:** Richard Dalton, Greg Simpson, Jane Van Patter

**Opening prayer:** President Cheryl

Louise Hall noted the passing of Rev. Colin Swan.

**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

**Opening Agreements**

Consent Docket

**MOTION:** Richard Auckland / Diane Skomash: Acceptance of the Consent Docket.

1. Enabling Actions
2. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
3. That the minutes of the October 11, 2023 meeting be approved as distributed.
4. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.
5. Correspondence Received
6. Proposal from UCC Foundation.
7. Request for funding for clergy luncheons (K. Steeper)
8. Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Omnibus motion – November 8, 2023

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

1. Camp Tanner Inc.

 …pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Camp Tanner Inc. to dissolve the corporation and begin the winding up of the corporation per its board decision of October 13, 2023.

*This is based on draft Special Board Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2023, discussion between the Camp Tanner Inc. board members, and representatives of Antler River Watershed Regional Council per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.*

*With the recent passing of long-time board member Sheila Greason, the board is working to bring required documentation together so they can take next steps with the assistance of staff and representatives of the Regional Council who will be attending the Camp Tanner Inc. Annual General Meeting on November 28, 2023.* **CARRIED.**

# Business Arising

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support: No report
3. Human Resources: Louise Hall. Brenda MacMain will be retiring as of December 31, 2023. United Fresh Start will have new programs in the new year. LLWL training scheduled for April 27, 2024.
4. Discipleship & Justice: Richard Auckland. Nov 14th the Commission will meet to review Mission Support Grant applications. Kathy Douglas has been key in pulling together all the information and circulating it to the Commission. Richard also asked that those gathered keep the people in Israel and Gaza in our hearts, knowing that innocents on both sides are being affected; be compassionate with everyone and with ourselves as well
5. UCW: Sandra Stock. At the UCW Executive will meet November 27th, to plan for next year. The UCW ARWRC helps support the National UCW’s 60th Anniversary Project in support of the Regina Native Outreach Ministries Baby & Mother Welcome Bags.

Brenda MacMain has stepped down from the Executive and will be retiring at the end of the year. To recognize the significant work the Executive has been able to do through her engagement and the wisdom she brought, it was suggested by Karlene Brown-Palmer, that as an executive something be done to recognize that work. It was agreed that cards could be sent to Brenda, care of her church. St. Clair Pastoral Charge, 978 Tashmoo Ave., Sarnia N7T 7H5 and that a donation be made in her name to the Healing Fund. President Cheryl will send a card and include a note about the Healing Fund donation.

**MOTION**: Doug Cameron / Karlene Brown-Palmer

That ARWRC Executive make a donation in Brenda MacMain’s name to the Healing Fund in the amount of $100.

**CARRIED.**

1. Proposal 1: Volunteer Recruitment Committee Mandate

A slight change was made to the order of the points in the mandate and the number of representatives to be appointed from the Executive, following brief discussion of the document and some concern expressed about making sure volunteers are not pigeonholed.

**MOTION:** Louise Hall / Richard Auckland

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive agrees to accept the following as the Volunteer Recruitment Committee’s Mandate.

The Volunteer Recruitment Committee will

1. Seek and contact potential volunteers throughout the year to fill vacancies as required on the Executive, Commissions, Staff Support Committee as well as commissioners to General Council when required.
2. Track all volunteers in the Regional Council ensuring diversity and best use of volunteers’ gifts and experiences.
3. Communicate with Communities of Faith through different mediums to raise awareness of the importance of appointing Regional Council Representatives and encourage networking.
4. Acknowledge receipt of and review Expressions of Interest forms
5. Bring the names to the Executive for approval; with confirmation at the Spring Regional Council Meeting.
6. Give recommendations for the review and update the Expression of Interest form on the website periodically.
7. Communicate the decision of the Regional Council with thanks and connect the volunteers with their respective Chairs.

**Three key principles will be considered when preparing the list of nominees:**

1. Living into the mandate of diversity adopted by the regional council;
2. Commitment to be an Affirming ministry; and
3. Supporting the development of leaders by providing opportunities and support.

**Membership**

One member from each of the commissions, 2 members from the Regional Council to be appointed by the Executive and with a commitment of 3 years, renewable once.

**Meetings**

The schedule for meetings will be based on the needs of the ARWRC and particularly in preparation for elections/appointments at the Regional Council meeting and the needs of Executive, Commissions and Staff Support throughout the year. Workload and personal schedules will be taken into consideration. The majority of meetings to happen virtually.

Suggested persons to be appointed on the first VRC

* Diane Skomash (Regional Council rep)
* Mary Anne Silverthorn (HR Commission)

**CARRIED.**

The Executive thanked Karlene Brown-Palmer for her excellent work in drafting the mandate.

Tim Blair, and Miriam Bowlby from Kindred Works joined the meeting.

**New Business: 1. Kindred Works (Regional Trust)**

Mark Laird introduced Tim and Miriam; attending to provide information on Kindred Works prior to the Executive looking at a related proposal later in the meeting.

Tim Blair outlined the United Property Resource Corporation, Kindred Works regional trust structure. He answered questions from the executive, particularly regarding structure, revenue flow, taxable status and process to move in this direction. This structure is intended to facilitate retention of church properties where a Regional Council deems this to be strategically important and financially feasible. This structure facilitates a systematic and professional portfolio approach to holding property while following the polity of property of the United Church. Kindred Works acts as the UPRC’s development and asset manager―developing and managing land on behalf of The United Church of Canada, communities of faith, and ecumenical partners. Tim added that the burden of getting shovel ready is Kindred Works’, not the congregation or regional council.

Concern regarding information sharing and confidentiality was raised, partially in relation to the current situation re: a specific church building. Tim emphasized there is no secrecy around any of the regional council projects/property managed by Kindred Works. Anyone with questions can reach out to Miriam Bowlby. Tim also referred the executive to the UPRC website <https://www.uprc.ca/>

It was suggested that a session on Kindred Works, with Miriam and Tim, could be made at the spring regional council meeting. Mark noted that there is an intention to have a presentation made at the spring 2024 regional council meeting outlining the Kindred Works option.

Mark thanked Tim and Miriam for attending the executive meeting and sharing their knowledge.

Kindred Works staff left the meeting.

1. Sharing notes from fall meeting Regional Council Evaluation breakout room discussions. How?

Discussed the purpose of sharing the notes and who should be sent them. Agreed that the notes, when collated, will be shared with the Executive to review and pass onto commissions and staff. Will revisit sharing the information more broadly at the January executive meeting.

**New Business**

1. Proposal 2: UCC Foundation Proposal

**MOTION:** Doug Cameron / Karlene Brown-Palmer

1. That the Regional Council when appropriate, recommends congregations and communities of faith explore the options the Foundation provides.
2. That if a congregation or community of faith chooses to work with the Foundation, the Regional Council will allow a transfer of assets to the Foundation knowing that the agreement between the congregation and Foundation will specifically name that the Regional Council is to be consulted about the assets should a congregation or community of faith disband or cease to exist. **CARRIED.**

There was some discomfort expressed initially with this proposal and the implied endorsement of the UCC Foundation by the Executive. However, after some discussion, it was agreed that the language in point A, “when appropriate” assuages that discomfort.

1. Proposal 3: Creation of Antler River Watershed Regional Council Business Trust (Kindred Works)

**MOTION:** Louise Hall / Diane Skomash

That the Executive of the ARWRC:

1. Endorse this approach to the management of real property within ARWRC;

2. Authorize the Acting Executive Minister and the Treasurer to proceed with negotiating the terms of the Business Trust;

3. Authorize any legal expenses associated with the same.

**CARRIED**

Question raised: would it make sense to have an umbrella agreement under all three regional councils. Mark thought that it might make sense (to have all in one portfolio instead of three), but not at this time. It could be something to discuss with the next Executive Minister, once all three regional council have business trusts. Conversation for the future.

Noted. The Regional Council determines priorities, Kindred Works manages and shares expertise. Any revenue, to be clear, is the regional council’s and it goes back to the regional council to do with as they see fit. Starts with a dialogue with the regional council; property team looks at the property, and the property gives advice directly back to the regional council; can the property be developed for example, or managed in cash flow or neutral way.

The proposal is saying that ARWRC Executive agrees with this model; ARWRC Executive will then have to have a future conversation to decide how to enact the model.

1. Request for funding received for Clergy Luncheons (Kevin Steeper)

**MOTION:** Richard Auckland / Louise Hall

That Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve a budget of up to $900, to come out of the ARWRC Executive Events Budget line, for an in-person clergy gathering to be held at White Oaks United Church, London, on February 14, 2024 from 12-2 pm. **CARRIED.**

1. C-A Party info: Tues Dec 12, 1:30-3:30 in person only, Avondale UC Stratford

There will be speeches at around 2 pm. Staff Support Committee will be presenting a gift.

5. Upcoming meeting: Tri-Regional Executive meeting: Saturday December 2, 9 am – 12:30 pm, via zoom (no Friday evening meeting). Option for ARW Executive to meet on own from 1 pm – 2:30 pm, if needed.

No other December meeting planned.

**Next regular meeting: January 10, 2024, 10 am, via zoom**

**Adjournment**