**Executive**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes**

**January 10, 2024, 10 AM**

**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:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa,Executive Minister**;** Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

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

**Welcome/Constitute Meeting/Acknowledging the Land:** 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.

**Opening Worship:** President Cheryl read 2nd Corinthians 1:10-11 and invited those gathered to share “What do you need us to pray for”. President Cheryl closed with prayer over the concerns expressed.

**Opening Agreements**

**MOTION:** Richard Auckland / Jane Van Patter

That the ARWRC Executive accept the Consent Docket.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.

2. That the minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting be approved as distributed.

3. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Going Deeper into the RC Evaluation: Summary of Notes from Breakout Room Discussion Fall 2023.

C. Confirmation of Email Votes

December 11, 2023

MOTION: Richard Auckland / Greg Simpson

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed endorses the request of the Board of Directors of Gesstwood Camp for a $40,000 United Church of Canada loan at the stated terms to pay off its CEBA loan by the deadline for partial forgiveness. CARRIED.

MOTION: Jane Van Patter / Karlene Brown Palmer

That the Executive authorizes an additional $1,000 support for the Ontario Quebec Native People's Retreat for 2023 to be paid directly to Five Oaks to cover the outstanding invoice. CARRIED

**CARRIED**

# Business Arising

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support: Greg Simpson, Chair

No meeting beginning of January, nothing immediately pressing. Commission is dealing with a couple of complicated real estate items.

1. Human Resources: Louise Hall, HR Rep to Executive

The Commission met January 9. Two covenanting services upcoming; for Martin Mwale and Tabitha Carey. Working on a tri-regional VAM policy. Also working on a policy re: moving from a supply appointment to permanent position policy. To clarify, previously those serving in a supply appointment couldn’t apply if the position was to be made permanent. Discussing what steps should be taken as some expect to be able to transition.

1. Discipleship & Justice: Richard Auckland, Chair

The Commission met in November to determine Mission Support grants for this year. A draft, approved grants spreadsheet was shared. This information has been forwarded for grants to be processed. Mission Support Grants are paid quarterly with the first installment sent January 2nd.

Cheryl-Ann expressed thanks to the Commission on behalf of Executive; grateful for commission’s thoughtful deliberation and their dedication to work. Chair Richard Auckland was asked to express the Executive’s gratitude to the Commission.

Remit Follow-up - Waiting for a list of those who have voted so we can follow up with Communities of Faith which still need to vote. Pleased with progress thus far but looking for up-to-date info.

Jane Van Patter noted that Camp Tanner has agreed to close and are working with GCO dealing with that process. They are being encouraged to have a recognition event for 30 years of service. This is a work in progress. Kathy Douglas, Minister Faith Formation, is resourcing.

UCW: Sandra Stock noted the next meeting of the UCW will be to finalize plans for the annual meeting in April. $22, 926.97 has been raised for the Healing Fund thus far.

1. Volunteer Recruitment

Members to add to the team: no names to add currently. Will be added to the Congregational Support commission February meeting agenda.

Concern expressed by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa about the numbers on commissions and her concern that recruitment is a big piece of work. Also worried about disengagement of ministers.

Thoughtful discussion ensued about education, making connections, apathy. Karlene Brown-Palmer suggested that a way forward would be to get those newly ordained/commissioned involved by assigning a task to them. To be used as a tool to see the scope of the wider church and help them to grow and integrate into the wider church. Karlene also suggested in person gatherings across the ARW area would be a way to remind people we are here and encourage connection.

It was agreed that the current volunteer recruitment team, Diane Skomash and Mary Anne Silverthorn, plus Sue Duliban as staff resource, would begin the work required to review the expression of interest and discern what is required for the May meeting. An initial meeting will be scheduled with the team and President Cheryl.

1. GC Commissioner Recruitment

Cheryl-Ann noted that GCO is putting together a standardized nomination form, a template that regional councils can use. Cheryl-Ann is attending a meeting next week at GCO and hopes to get the template then. She will also have further details on online meeting dates, which might be helpful to include in any information to be circulated.

It was agreed that a “coming soon” notice re: GC 45 Commissioners, would be put on the website. For example, “Information on GC45 Commissioner Nominations Coming Soon. Nomination form, deadline for nominations, meeting dates”. President Cheryl added that it is important to be clear who is eligible to be a commissioner.

Steps/process for GC45 Commissioner recruitment to be brought to the February ARW Executive meeting.

1. Going Deeper into the RC Evaluation: Summary of notes from breakout room discussion Fall 2023.

\*From November 2023 meeting: 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.

No questions raised about the summary of notes. Briefly noted that some of the hurt that comes through (from the evaluation and the fall meeting discussion) is at a congregational level and is being pushed to regional council. We do the work we can do.

President Cheryl closed the meeting with prayer.

**Adjournment**

Upcoming meetings

Tri-Executive: January 13, 2024, 9 am

Regular Executive: February 14, 2024, 10 AM