**Executive**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**MINUTES**

**February 14, 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,Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:** Karlene Brown-Palmer, Doug Cameron, Richard Dalton

**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:** PresidentCheryl shared an Ash Wednesday prayer and reading from the 2nd letter of Paul to the Corinthians and invited those gathered to check-in on Valentine’s Day.

**Opening Agreements**

Consent Docket

**MOTION:** Jane Van Patter / Diane Skomash

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive accept the Consent Docket.

1. Enabling Actions
2. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
3. That the minutes of the January 10, 2024 and January 13, 2024 meetings be approved as distributed.
4. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Staff Position Descriptions

Receive the updated Staff Position Descriptions approved by the Staff Support Committee on

January 31, 2024. For Information only.

C. Executive Minister Accountability Report February 2024 (For Information)

D. Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Omnibus motion – February 14, 2024

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

1. Lambton Presbytery United Church Centre

…pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the

Lambton Presbytery United Church Centre 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Dylan Cox

Betty Knight

Jennifer Nickles

Janeen Ruston

Keith Temple

Brenda Wilkins

Susan Wright

*This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of February 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.*  **CARRIED**.

# Business Arising

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

The Commission has been dealing with a number of real estate items; including the sale of a building that had long been outstanding. Have been having investment policies discussion with the Commission: are congregations well supported/educated on how to invest, the best use of funds, what are the investment plans, future looking conversations.

Discussing establishing a policy that any real estate transaction generating in excess of $100,000 net requires the prior submission of an investment policy for the review of the Commission.

Letters were sent to all communities of faith and pastoral charge supervisors, re: the pastoral charge supervisors payment policy.

1. Human Resources: Louise Hall

The Commission met February 13. Louise noted that Micol Cottrell will be taking continuing education time February 20-24. Conversation at yesterday’s meeting: the Commission has worked on who they are, trying now to move forward and make more efficient. Also ongoing conversation about support for retired ministers. Upcoming: a possible workshop, with Western Ontario Waterways, presented by Janet Kennedy, UCC minister serving as a chaplain in a long-term care home, “Ministry with people who have dementia”. Ministry and Personnel Committee training upcoming. M&P Committees to attend training events if they have not previously done so in the last 12 months. Licenced Lay Worship Leaders day event April 27.

Motion forwarded Feb 13, 2024, from June 13, 2023 HR Commission meeting

Renaming Human Resources Commission to Pastoral Relations

MOTION by Paul Browning / Tracy Wygiera That the Human Resources Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council request the Executive to change the name of this commission to Pastoral Relations Commission to clarify our purpose to United Church members. Agreed by Consensus.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa said conversation about changing the name needs to happen tri-regionally. It would be violating the Ministry Sharing Agreement to unilaterally change a name in a single regional council. It was recommended that the ARW HR Commission chair reach out to the HR Commission chairs of Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways to raise the question and put forward ARW’s reason for changing the name. Louise will convey the recommendation to the Commission.

1. Discipleship & Justice: Richard Auckland

Major thing the Commission (with HF and WOW) is working on is the remit. Richard has made a few notes for future votes, suggestions to tighten up the process. Only 63 pastoral charges have not yet registered their vote. Richard also mentioned, for information, a peaceful protest planned (not by the commission) against planned landfill near Dresden.

1. UCW: Sandra Stock. The UCW’s AGM is scheduled for April 27, Dunwood UC, 9 AM. Speaker: Jen Prince. Theme: Where there is Faith, there is Hope. Everyone welcome to attend and registration will be available shortly. Summer event is being planned for July 20, 10 AM-3PM at Siloam UC.
2. **Volunteer Recruitment Team**: Diane Skomash gave an update on the initial meeting of the team.
3. Expression of Interest Received: Wanda Winfield

**MOTION:** Jane Van Patter / Louise Hall

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive appoint Wanda Winfield to the Congregational Support Commission, effective March 1, 2024. **CARRIED.**

1. Volunteer Recruitment Team Mandate

**MOTION**: Diane Skomash / Louise Hall

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive approve the amendments made to the Volunteer Recruitment Team Mandate for approval and addition to the Governance Handbook. **CARRIED.**

1. **Steps/process for GC45 Commissioner nominations (per Volunteer Recruitment Team) and spring meeting registration dates for info**

* Feb 23: GC Commissioners nominations open. GC45 specific e-newsletter, link to nomination form. Post on website/Facebook.
* March 1: Registration for the tri regional meeting opens. Expression of interest form included in registration information, e-newsletter and website
* March 25: Registration/nominations reminder
* April 2: Registration/nominations reminder
* April 8: Registration/nominations reminder
* April 16: Deadline for meeting registration
* May 1: Deadline for expressions of interest (exec, commissions, pres elect) and GC commissioner nominations
* May 8 Executive meeting: Review submissions and develop slate
* May 15: Post slate

Recruitment video prepared by President Cheryl and Greg Simpson was posted on Facebook. Staff will add to the May meeting website page when registration opens.

1. **Proposal 1: Declaration of Business Trust document**

**MOTION:** Greg Simpson / Louise Hall

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive

1. Authorize the Executive Minister to make editorial changes as needed to the draft Declaration of Trust document;
2. Direct the Executive Minister to serve as the Settlor on behalf of Antler River Watershed Regional Council and to provide the required funds ($20) to complete the draft Declaration of Trust as presented;
3. Direct the Executive Minister to transfer the property of the former St. Paul’s United Church, Sarnia into the Antler River Watershed Declaration of Trust as soon as possible.
4. Confirm the decision of the Executive as at September 7, 2022, that the income from redevelopment of the St. Paul’s, Sarnia property will be distributed according to the Antler River Watershed Regional Council property policy:

a. 15% for Indigenous ministries;

b. 12.5% for Mission and Service current year

c. 12.5% for Mission and Service Endowment

d. 2% for Archives

e. 25% for regional council

f. 33% directed to the Lambton United Church Centre. If the Lambton United Church Centre should cease to exist all income shall be divided according to the ARWRC property policy as approved by the Congregational Support Commission on December 7, 2022.

**CARRIED.**

1. **Hosting GC46: update for information**

Horseshoe Falls Executive decided at their meeting on January 24, 2024, that they would welcome the opportunity to host GC 46. While they know they can count on the support of ARWRC and WOWRC, they have offered the invitation in their name and to take on this role by themselves for ease of planning.

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

Sharing the information more broadly; beyond executive, commissions, staff.

Will hold to March meeting. Also on May regional council meeting agenda.

1. **Celebrating and Commemorating UCC 100th Anniversary**
2. Decide if this will be regional council by regional council or involve some joint celebrations; individual with advice to other regional councils if they want to join the celebration.
3. Determine time to brainstorm ideas and refine them with a view to communicating with congregations after Easter 2024.

Discussion on possible ideas led to utilizing the “poker run” format for a celebratory event (an organized event in which participants, usually using cars or other means of transportation visit checkpoints, drawing a playing card at each). This “poker run” would involve travelling to a variety of churches, and instead of playing cards, collecting one page church histories. A celebration barbeque could be held as part of the event.

Richard Auckland offered to draft an outline, that can be a model. To be included on March executive agenda.

**New Business**

1. Proposal 2: Discontinue Resource Pools

**MOTION:** Diane Skomash / Richard Auckland

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive agrees to

1. Discontinue the use of Resource Pools but empower commissions to form working groups of people to carry out similar roles eg. Pastoral Charge Supervisors, Liaisons.
2. Direct staff to update the ARWRC Governance Handbook to reflect this change. **CARRIED.**

1. Staff Update (Cheryl-Ann). Ruthanna Mack is making her health a priority and will not be returning to regional council duties.
2. Adaptive Learning: Arising from Cheryl-Ann’s sabbatical reflections, to consider. For example, to look at scheduling fall meetings on alternate days of the week.
3. Sharepoint tutorial: Ann Harbridge, WOWRC CSC Chair, currently working on migrating dropbox documents to Sharepoint and copying all motions, is willing to do a brief 15 minute Sharepoint tutorial prior to the start of an executive meeting for anyone who is interested. Can also contact Ann directly. Will leave the invitation open.

As this was Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa’s final meeting with the ARW Executive, Past President Jane Van Patter thanked her, on behalf of all, for all she has given the regional council and previously London Conference; her leadership and wisdom, patience and graciousness. The ARW Executive wished Cheryl-Ann all the very best in her new endeavours with General Council. The meeting closed with an electronic standing ovation.

Adjournment.

Next Executive Meeting: March 13, 2024, 10 AM via zoom