**Executive**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**MINUTES**

**March 13, 2024, 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, Linda Badke (Discipleship and Justice Commission representative)

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

**Regrets:** Richard Auckland, Doug Cameron, Richard Dalton, Diane Skomash, Sandra Stock

**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/Check-in:** President Cheryl shared a brief Season of Lent reflection and closed with prayer. President Cheryl welcomed Mark Laird, Executive Minister. Those gathered were invited to check-in.

**Opening Agreements**

Consent Docket

**MOTION:** Jane Van Patter / Greg Simpson

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

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.
2. That the minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Antler River Watershed Regional Council (7) Omnibus motion – March 13, 2024

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

a) Windsor Essex United Church 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 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Fred Barkhouse

Catherine Collins-Barker

Elaine Mailloux

Alan Parnell

John van Omme

 This is based on the Minutes of WEUCDF Annual Meeting of April 7, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, contact list provided, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

 \*\*NB There was no annual meeting held in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions and Staff confirm this Incorporated Ministry is now in compliance with the Incorporated Ministries policy.

……based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NO. 1, as approved by the members on April 27, 2023 of the incorporated ministry known as Windsor Essex United Church 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 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Fred Barkhouse

David Clifford

Alan Parnell

Walter Pizzolitto

John van Omme

Darrow Woods

 These are based on the draft WINDSOR ESSEX UNITED CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Thursday, April 27, 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: Greg Simpson

 Request from the CSC arising from a motion made at their meeting of March 6, 2024

**MOTION:** Greg Simpson / Louise Hall

That the ARWRC Executive agree that the property of Essex United Church be transferred to the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Business Trust upon their disbandment. **CARRIED.**

Mark Laird noted that the Executive will need to have a conversation around how ARWRC will manage any income that comes into the Business Trust.

Greg Simpson noted that Central UC, Windsor has sold. The Commission hopes to meet in person in about a month to provide time to have more in depth conversation.

Human Resources: Louise Hall reported there will be increased M&P training. DLMs testamurs will be part of the spring meeting. Clergy lunch was held and was very well received. Kevin Steeper, Pastoral Support Minister is looking to hold lunches a couple times a year. The Commission provided funding for the lunch. LLWL Day Away to be held in April. New ordinations/commissions etc., will be given a 2 year subscription to Touchstone from HRC. Pulpit supply policy is being reviewed. For clarification, Micol Cottrell is reaching out to other RCs about their policies, to expand and develop our own, particularly around retirees/VAMs.

Requests from the HRC arising from motions made at their meeting of March 12, 2024

**MOTION:** Louise Hall / Karlene Brown-Palmer

That the ARWRC Executive agrees to allow commission members to renew their appointment for another term beyond the initial two term limit if requested by the Commission on which they serve and that the ARWRC Governance Handbook be updated to reflect this change. **CARRIED.**

Suggestion that serious discussion about policies is needed re: terms of service. Karlene Brown-Palmer felt that if the regional council has people willing to continue to serve and with the capacity to serve, they should be encouraged to do so; especially when there is an issue with recruiting volunteers. Suggested that serious discussion about terms of service policy is needed. This motion is a start. There was some brief discussion about whether this would benefit the other commissions, with some concern from Greg Simpson, CSC Chair, that it might not give room for new ideas at the table. However, it was noted that the renewing of an appointment is not automatic; it has to be requested by the commission.

The second motion from the Human Resources Commission to be sent back to the Commission for clarification: is the intention for the members noted in the motion to stay for one more year or another 3 year term.

Motion 2: The ARWRC approves the recommendation from the Human Resources Commission that the appointments of Norm MacPherson and Mary Anne Silverthorne be extended by a year. Their terms to end May 31, 2025.

1. Discipleship and Justice: Update received from Richard Auckland via email. Linda Badke, Discipleship and Justice Commission representative in Richard’s absence briefly reviewed his notes, as follows.

The Discipleship and Justice Commission did not meet in January as there was not a lot of business before our group. One item which came before us was whether we support a camping ministry training opportunity with Jim Cain who will be here as part of "Audacious Hope" conference at Brock University in July. This is a cost sharing opportunity with the 3 regions and the Presbyterian Church. He will present to our camps and their attending staff people. Our Commission supported this application as it fits nicely with supporting Youth and Young Adults. Funds of approximately $4000 will come from the Youth and Young Adult Fund of ARW.

1. UCW: No report.
2. Deadline for GC45 nominations: Agree to change from April 15, 2024 to May 1, 2024.

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

The Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council agrees that the deadline for GC45 Commissioner nominations be changed from April 15, 2024 to May 1, 2024. **CARRIED.**

It was agreed that the meeting to consider GC45 Commissioner nominations can be done online; an in person meeting is not required.

**New Business**

1. Proposal 1: Celebration of Ministries Service Planning Deadline

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

The Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approves as policy:

That for a candidate to be able to be Ordained, Commissioned, Recognized or Admitted during the Celebration of Ministry service at an Antler River Watershed Regional Council meeting, they need to have their provisional call approved by the Human Resources Commission no later than 6 weeks before the Celebration of Ministry service is set to take place. If a provisional call is not in place by this time, that candidate will wait until the next regularly scheduled Celebration of Ministry service to become Ordained, Commissioned, Recognized or Admitted into The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED.**

Provisional calls for the May 2024 service need to be in place by April 8. Provisional calls for Fall 2024 will need to be in place by Sept 14. It was agreed that this is a good policy; as long as it is clearly and fairly communicated to congregations anticipating offering a provisional call and candidates.

Noted that if someone doesn’t have provisional call in place six weeks prior to a service, they can still work but will continue to be considered candidate supply until the next service. Mark Laird added that this proposal was discussed with Tanya Cameron, Vocational Minister, and Micol Cottrell, Minister Pastoral Relations and candidates have been advised that the Human Resources Commission needs to know they have a provisional call in place by April 8th. Mark Laird noted that this will be the policy, but exceptions can always be made to the policy if the need arises.

1. Proposal 2: Audacious Hope Registration Fee Subsidy for First 100 Participants from ARW/WOW/HF Regional Councils

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

The ARWRC Executive agrees to approve the following:

1. That the ARW/WOW and HF Regional Councils subsidize the Audacious Hope event registration fee by $325 for the first 100 registrants from any of the three Regional Councils.
2. That the ARW/WOW and HF Regional Councils share equally the cost of the subsidized registration fee for the first 100 participants who register for Audacious Hope from WOW, ARW or HF Regional Councils.
3. That the ARW/WOW/HF Executives direct the Executive Minister and Regional Council Treasurers to pay the registration fee subsidy out of applicable grants or unrestricted reserves.  **CARRIED.**

If the other two Regional Councils do not pass the motion, it will have to come back to the ARWRC Executive with a revised option.

1. Kenesserie Camp: UCC Camp Loan Application

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

That the Executive of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approves the application of Kenesserie Camp for a capital loan of $50,000 dated November 27, 2023. **CARRIED.**

4**. Save the date:** June 13 save the date for Executive/Commissions orientation at St. Andrew’s, Chatham.

Next Executive Meeting: April 10, 2024, 10 AM via zoom