

02/07/2024 Congregational Support Commission
Antler River Watershed Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith

Place/Time: 9:00 a.m. **Zoom Meeting**

Roster: Greg Simpson (DLM, Chair), Herb deJong (L), Judith Fayter (OM), Adam Kilner (OM), Andi McKillop (L), Mark Perry (OM), Jim Stirling (L), Carey Wagner (DM), Dave Whiting (L)

Staff Support: Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support, lallin@united-church.ca; Pretima Kukadia, Admin, Communications, Records pkukadia@united-church.ca

Present: Greg Simpson, Herb DeJong, Judith Fayter, Adam Kilner, Andi McKillop, Mark Perry, Jim Stirling, Carey Wagner, Dave Whiting, Lynne Allin, Pretima Kukadia

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Greg Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was then constituted and opened.

Acknowledging the Land: Territorial lands are acknowledged on behalf of the Congregational Support Commission by Greg Simpson:

We are gathered this morning on traditional lands. We recognize and deeply appreciate the historic connection to this ground we share. We also recognize the contributions of the Metis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made to our country. As settlers, this recognition must be clearly connected to our commitment to make the promise and the challenge of the Truth and Reconciliation real in the communities in which we live and worship. We are grateful to the Creator for this time and this place.

Opening Worship: Greg Simpson presented worship through the lens of transfiguration.

Opening Motions

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Dave Whiting / Adam Kilner that the agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Consent Docket

1. **Approval of Minutes** of December 13, 2023 be accepted as circulated.

2. **Email Poll** of January 18, 2024 to be recorded in the minutes

MOTION by Mark Perry / Jim Stirling that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the technology grant for St. Luke's United Church, Sarnia.

MOTION

CARRIED

MOTION by Mark Perry / Jim Stirling that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request by the Board of Trustees for Courtright United Church, Courtright to

- 1) the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is 1540 Fourth Street, Courtright, Ontario, the Township of St. Clair, the County of Lambton, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of the Courtright United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as sellers, and Mark Steadman and Ross George, as purchasers, dated the 14th day of September, 2023, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:
 - Sale Price \$310,000
 - Deposit \$5,000
 - Closing Date May 1, 2024
 - Seller retains the right and licence to use the basement area for weekly church services for three years
 - Conditional on zoning being obtained at the buyer's expense for a daycare before the closing date
- 2) The net proceeds from the sale to be invested in a restricted fund with the income available to the Courtright United Church for any purpose they decide and access to the principal requiring consultation with and approval from the Congregational Support Commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

3. Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions

- a. Appoint Adam Kilner as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for St. Clair United Church effective January 8, 2024.
- b. Appoint Darrow Woods as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Leamington United Church effective March 1, 2024.
- c. Amend the start date for Wendy Milliken as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for New Melbourne United Church to July 1, 2024.
- d. Appoint Laura Marzec as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Riverside UC, Windsor effective January 26, 2024 to cover a leave of absence.
- e. Appoint Nancy Vandenberghe as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for St. David's UC, Woodstock effective February 7, 2024.
- f. Appoint Kim Gilliland as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Wheatley Pastoral Charge, effective February 7, 2024.
- g. Appoint Pam Wilcox as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Hickson Pastoral Charge effective February 1, 2024.

4. Annual Reports

The Congregational Support Commission receives the following communities of faith 2023 Annual Reports with thanks:

Melville United Church	
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----- End of Consent Docket -----

MOTION by Carey Wagner / Adam Kilner that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

New Business

Transitions

1. Charing Cross United Church and Wesley United Church

MOTION by Jim Stirling / Judith Fayter that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the collaborative nesting agreement of Charing Cross United Church and Wesley United Church. The date of the collaborative agreement will be June 19, 2023.

MOTION

CARRIED

2. Central United Church, Windsor and Emmanuel United Church, Windsor

MOTION by Andi McKillop / Dave Whiting that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the amalgamation agreement of **Central** United Church and **Emmanuel** United Church. The date of the amalgamation will be March 1, 2024, pending the sale of the Central United Church property.

MOTION

CARRIED

Property

1. Trinity United Church, London

Trinity United Church is seeking to increase their Congregational Capital Development Loan by 60,000. A repayment plan and application for the loan have been requested. GCO has provided 3 repayment options.

Discussion.

Mark Perry had to leave the meeting. Andi McKillop left shortly after. Carey Wagner also needed to leave, all for other meetings.

Other Business

1. Investment Policy re: Property Sales

MOTION by Judith Fayter / Dave Whiting that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council establish 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 Congregational Support Commission, going forward as recommended.

MOTION

CARRIED

Greg handed the chair to Dave Whiting as he needed to leave. Adam Kilner also had a meeting to attend.

2. List of Redevelopment Projects in ARW with Kindred Works

This list will be updated regularly to keep the commission advised regarding projects.

3. Vulnerable Congregations Report: Report from Mike Wood Daly

Only covered time period from 2016 to 2019. Identified red flags to watch for are, such as if salaries are above 60% of revenue.

REVENUE

- 10% of congregations saw charitable giving fall more than 30%
- 34% of congregations saw rental income fall by more than 30%
- ❖ 14% of congregations saw total revenue fall by more than 30%

EXPENSE

- 52% saw occupancy costs increase by more than 30%
- 57% saw management and admin costs rise by more than 30%
- 18% saw total expenses increase by more than 30% COVID Year One
- 66% saw a decline in receipted charitable giving
- ❖ 73% saw a decline in total revenue
- 13% saw an increase in total expenses

Two of the five identified churches have already closed.

Newsletter article for vulnerable CoFs is being written. Shall we invite CoFs who can use this information and other suggestions to a webinar? Next steps?

4. List of Churches that applied for a GCO loan to cover CEBA Loan

Gesstwood Camp and Harrow United Church.

5. Executive Report: Greg Simpson

Letters to Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Communities of Faith with supervisors. Both mailings are ready to go out.

The Regional Council Trust, which is being set-up, will allow us to hold property in certain cases, especially for Communities of Faith that are closing without having dispensed with their property.

Mark Laird starts as Executive Minister as of March 1, 2024. We hope to invite him to one of our meetings.

Greg handed the chair to Dave Whiting as he needed to leave.

6. Congregational Support Minister Report: Lynne Allin

Restricted Funds policy: being worked on by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council for CoFs asking re use of their restricted funds for expenses.

Updated Website toolkits: more intuitive, updated structure.

Supervised Ministry Education (SME), Andrew Richardson, looking for collaborative ministries to place five students across Canada. Kent churches / Eric Skillings have applied to be one of the five sites.

Hate Mail has been received by several Communities of Faith. Please have anyone receiving this to contact Therese Samuel. She has applied for a claim number from the Canada Border Agency.

Term Endings: Andi McKillop received notification from the Nominations Committee that her term ends at the rise of regional council May 24, 2024.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship by: Dave Whiting

MOTION that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned at 10:45 am.

MOTION

AGREED