**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

**Spring 2024 Meeting**

The Antler River Watershed Regional Council was called to meet on Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th, 2024, during the Tri-Regional Council meeting weekend held at the Unifor Family Centre, Port Elgin, in person and on Zoom.

***Meeting Session #1:* Saturday, May 25, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

President Rev. Cheryl Bolton opened the meeting with prayer.

**Constitution of 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 the Antler River Watershed Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of this meeting are the zoom call and the Unifor Family Centre, Port Elgin, ON. London.

**Proposal 1: Opening and Procedural Motion**

**MOTION**: Kerry Stover/Tracy Wygiera

That the Regional Council adopt the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary;
2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of 2023-10-27-28;
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of:

 The Executive from 24-04-10, 24-03-13, 24-02-14, 24-01-13, 24-01-10, 23-11-08, 23-10-11

The Congregational Support Commission from 23-10-11, 23-10-04, 23-10-02, 23-09-06, 23-08-30. 23 08-15, 23-07-05.

The Human Resources Commission from 23-10-10, 23-09-12, 23-06-13.

The Discipleship and Justice Commission from 2023-09-12, 23-06-20.

Please note: Minutes are posted on the website

1. Confirm the appointment of Melodee Lovering to the Human Resources Commission;
2. Confirm the appointment of Wanda Winfield to the Congregational Support Commission;
3. Appoint Brad Morrison as Parliamentarian;
4. Appoint Kerry Stover as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
5. Name Charmain Bailey to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
6. Name President Cheryl Bolton, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Kerry Stover, Recording Secretary Louise Hall, and Parliamentarian Brad Morrison, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
7. Name the Chair Agenda and Business Committee and Recording Secretary as scrutineers;
8. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call and the UNIFOR Family Education Centre, Port Elgin, Ontario.
9. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c);
10. Make all guests corresponding members;
11. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 25, 2024.
12. Receive all written reports in the workbook.
13. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council

Step One:

The Presenter will outline:

1. What is the issue? And
2. Suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes of additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

**CARRIED.**

President Cheryl introduced the Leadership Team, outlined the BRAVE Commitment and the Affirming Statement. First- time regional council members were welcomed.

**Proposal 2: GC45 Commissioners Slate**

**MOTION:** Mary Anne Silverthorn/Norm MacPherson

That the Regional Council

1. Accept the slate of General Council 45 Commissioners as prepared by the Executive.

Linda Badke Lay

Linda Britton Lay

Tabitha Carey Ministry Personnel

Jonathon Forbes Ministry Personnel

G. Keith Kaiser Lay

Lilian Patey Ministry Personnel

Erin Stirling Lay

Kerry Stover Ministry Personnel

Laura Swan Lay

David Whiting Lay

Pat Whitton Lay

Pamela Wilcox Ministry Personnel

Brie Wohlers Lay

1. To Empower the Antler River Watershed Regional Council to name Alternates to General Council 45 who will serve if any of the above Commissioners are unable to attend.

**CARRIED.**

**Community Building**

A community building session was led by Pam Wilcox. She talked about the 100th anniversary year being held starting June 9th 2024 with an online service with Michael Blair, Executive Secretary of the United Church of Canada. Her question to the court was “What plans do you have?”. Here are some of the ideas

* A pizza Party with “goodies”
* Picnics at our local United Church Camps
* A Box Social
* Several churches working together to put on a concert
* Car Rally
* Ringing of church bells
* Replicate a photo of the first London Conference meeting
* A neighbourhood Birthday Party
* A Community Carnival
* Every month during the anniversary year singing a hymn from the past
* Collect 100 of some food item each month during the year as a donation to your local food bank.

This session ended at 10:20 a.m.

***Meeting Session #2:* Saturday, May 25, 2024**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Order of the Day: Visit from The Moderator**

The meeting began with a question and answer time with The Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Q. Are the minutes of the General Council Executive public?

A. A summary of the meetings is published in the United Church Commons.

Q. What do you intend to do in your new teaching role at Emanual College?

A. Just be with people and get to know how things are. Then to teach skills that empower congregations.

Q. How can we do hybrid things?

A. This is a good question but she has not heard anything solid. Proposals should come from Congregations to the Regional Councils.

Q. What is the “Flourishing Project”?

A. A more holistic look at everything. The Growth Animators should be involved. What are the dreams of the Congregations?

Nominations for President Elect: Richard Auckland is the only name brought forward.

**Proposal 3: Executive/Commissions Slate**

**MOTION**: Kerry Stover/Louise Hall

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council appoint Jane Van Patter and Dr. Eileen Antone (as the Indigenous Representative) to the Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive.

**CARRIED.**

***Meeting Session #3:* Sunday, May 26, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

The session opened with prayer led by President Cheryl.

**Election of President Elect**

**MOTION:** Kerry Stover/Mark Perry

That the Antler River Watershed Regional Council accept Richard Auckland as the new President Elect.

**CARRIED.**

**Regional Council Evaluation: Update on regional council follow-up**

Three areas for improvement have been identified.

1. Communications. Every Friday a newsletter goes out. If you have a church event you can post it on the Regional Council Facebook page.
2. Most things are staff led. This is because we do not have enough volunteers to fill vacancies. We have openings on the Executive, all Commissions and Resource Pools.
3. People are feeling disconnected. If you are feeling disconnected REACH OUT. It is a requirement of each Community of Faith to have a Regional Council Representative. It is part of each order of ministry persons to be active in the regional council. Ministers can reach out to neighbouring ministers. If Lay people could take on a task they will find that the reward of helping outweighs the effort.

One of the new representatives commented that they found the use of initials and short forms very confusing. This is something that all need to work on.

President Cheryl Bolton thanked everyone.

**Proposal 4: Closing Motion**s

**MOTION**: Kerry Stover/Jim Drummond

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its May 24, May 25 and May 26, 2024 meeting to the Executive;
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next spring regional council meeting;
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2024;
4. Entrust the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Antler River Watershed Regional Council in accordance with *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council.
5. Close the May 24, May 25 and May 26, 2024 meeting of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council at the close of the worship service on Sunday, May 26, 2024.

**CARRIED.**