**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

**Roster:** (8) Greg Simpson (OM, Chair), Herb deJong (L), Judith Fayter (OM), Adam Kilner (OM), Mark Perry (OM), Jim Stirling (L), Carey Wagner (DM), Dave Whiting (L),

**Staff Support:** Rev. Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support, lallin@united-church.ca; Krista Ford, Admin, kford@united-church.ca

**Regrets**: **Mark Perry, Lynne Allin**

**Guests: Ann Harbridge, John Neff**

# Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Greg Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was then constituted and opened at 9:01

# 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: Dave Whiting presented worship sharing a prayer for students and reflection on a time of new beginings.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION** by**Carey Wagner** / **Jim Stirling** that the agenda be accepted as circulated.
 **CARRIED**

**Consent Docket**

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** of August 14, 2024 be accepted.
2. **Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**
3. Lynne Dunlop to St. Paul’s Tillsonburg for a meeting on September 17, 2024
4. **Annual Reports**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tecumseh United Church | Strathroy United Church |
|  |  |

1. **Self Assessments** to be received with thanks:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. **Community of Faith Profiles** to be received with thanks:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| London Road West, Sarnia |  |
|  |  |

--------------------------------------------- End of Consent Docket ---------------------------------------------

**MOTION** by **Judith Fayter** / **Adam Kilner** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the consent docket as circulated.
 **CARRIED**

**New Business**

**Community of Faith Profile**

1. **Tecumseh United Church**

**MOTION** by **Herb deJong** / **Carey Wagner** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Community of Faith Profile forTecumseh United Church and approve their request to search for ministry personnel, full-time, up to category F.

 **CARRIED**

**Transitions**

1. **Essex United Church**

**MOTION** by **Carey Wagner** / **Adam Kilner** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request from Essex United Church to cease to worship after their final service on October 20, 2024. The disbanding date to be set once all assets have been disbursed.

 **CARRIED**

**Governance**

**Villages United Church, Granton**

**MOTION** by **Dave Whiting** / **Carey Wagner** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council consent to the request from Villages United Church, Granton for April Barker, an adherent, to serve as treasurer.

 **CARRIED**

**Property**

1. **Mount Zion United Church**

 Update: the congregation is creating a UCC corporation for their learning centre. Their plans now include constructing a separate building on their property. They have a 2 million dollar grant, but this is not for construction. They are hoping for a UCC loan for 2 million but the limit is usually 500,000. Waiting for guidance from Harry Li at GCO. Also necessary to have a conversation with Mount Zion (London) about finances, detailed plans, ability to repay the loan etc. *(this amount of detail is not required for the minutes)*There are other people involved in the next steps so nothing further needs to be done by the commission at this point.

**Other Business**

**1. Siloam United Church, London**

Update: They have sent in some financial statements. They are experiencing a deficit and will be reviewing their situation. Advised to stop their search until they have a plan for reducing expenses. Also working with Brenna Baker re: Stewardship.

**2. Executive Report:** Greg Simpson

Greg reminding the commission about the requirement to provide a written report as well as a presentation for the report book for the upcoming fall meeting. The idea for the presentation is to interview South Kent and Eric Skillings for the work he has been doing in the area.
Judith offered to prepare the report for the workbook and will have something rough done by Oct 1st for Greg to review.
It was noted that Sue Duliban’s retirement part is being held at the Hamilton office on Friday Sept 6th from 1-3 and all are invited to attend in person but there will also be a link for those wishing to attend virtually.
There is also further discussion regarding financials, in relation to funds from manse sales, this is expected to come forward to Executive in October.

**3. Staff Report:** Lynne Allin

There is no staff report as Lynne is on sabbatical.

**4. Other Information**

There was a request from John and Ann, while covering for Lynne that request include the geographical location of the community of faith being discussed. It is helpful as they are not as familiar as Lynne is, and as noted there are often several communities of faith with the same or similar names, so having a town or city to connect it to is helpful.

# Next Meeting: October 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**Worship by**: **Jim Stirling**

**MOTION** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned at 09:55 a.m.

**MOTION** **AGREED**