**Congregational Support Commission**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Holding and Encouraging Communities of Faith***

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

**Roster:** 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:** Krista Ford, Admin, Ann Harbridge, Acting Minister Congregational Support, John Neff

**Regrets**: Lynne Allin, Adam Kilner, Carey Wagner, Dave Whiting

**Guests:**

# Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Greg Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was then constituted and opened at 9:07am

# 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: Jim Stirling presented worship reading a very moving article that offered great reflection.

**Corresponding Members**

**None**

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION** by**Mark Perry** / **Jim Stirling** that the agenda be accepted as circulated.

MOTION **CARRIED**

**Consent Docket**

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes** September 4, 2024
2. **Email Poll Oct. 1, 2024**

**Motion**: Herb DeJong/Adam Kilner that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional council approve the repairs to the roof of Strathroy United Church, in the amount of approximately $95,000, with funds coming from restricted reserves.

1. **Appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors & Companions**
2. Kerry Stover as PCS to Mount Bridges Pastoral Charge for meetings on Sept. 11, 12 & 19th.
3. Mary Anne Silverthorn as PCS to Avondale, Tillsonburg beginning Sept. 30, 2024
4. Mary Anne Silverthorn as PCS to Otterville, UC beginning September 30,2024
5. Kerry Stover as PCS to Mount Bridges Pastoral Charge eff Sept.26. 2024

Note PCS needed

Jan 1/2025 for Harrow UC (Rev. Darrow Woods retiring Dec 31)

1. **Annual Reports**

The Congregational Support Commission receives the following communities of faith 2022 Annual Reports with thanks:

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

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

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

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

MOTION

 **CARRIED**

**New Business**

**Property**

**1. South Caradoc** – Floor replacement [Property-Resolution-Trustees\_SCUC.jpg,](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ai%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/Property-Resolution-Trustees_SCUC.jpg?csf=1&web=1&e=F98mgI) [SOUTH CARADOC UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023.docx,](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/SOUTH%20%20CARADOC%20%20UNITED%20%20CHURCH%20%20ANNUAL%20%20REPORT%202023.docx?d=w407010ee94e74dc5a5d35974532b7861&csf=1&web=1&e=fbcpgW) [Quote-1248 (1).pdf](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/Quote-1248%20%281%29.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=6mcyzE)

**MOTION**: by **Mark Perry** / **Jim Stirling** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed approve the request of South Caradoc United Church to contract with Silverthorn Contracting and Renovations for the replacement of the floor of the South Caradoc Community Centre in the amount of $35,875.23 plus HST

MOTION **CARRIED**

**2. Port Lambton United Church Manse** [TrusteesManseListing.pdf,](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/TrusteesManseListing.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=Oddw3m) [Letter of Opinion- 3936 St.Clair PKWY\_.pdf,](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/Letter%20of%20Opinion-%203936%20St.Clair%20PKWY_.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=ouIRNz) [ManseRiversite1.pdf,](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/ManseRiversite1.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=6K8EJ1) [ManseRiversite2.pdf](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/ManseRiversite2.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=p3hdBB) , [ManseRemax.pdf,](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/ARWCSC/MeetingLibrary/ManseRemax.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=s8INXV)

MOTION: by **Herb deJong** / **Judith Fayter** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed approve the request of the Trustees of Port Lambton United Church of the Port Lambton Pastoral charge to list for sale certain Real Property Manse, the legal description of which is Con 9 Pt LOT D RP 25R4887 PARTS 2&3, and the municipal address of which is 3936 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton, ON N0P 2B0 with details as follows:

Listing Agent: Chloe Vankeulen

Commission Rate: 5%

Asking Price: $775,000

Listing Date: Oct. 2, 2024

Appliances included: washer, dryer, dishwasher

MOTION **CARRIED**

**3. Restricted Funds**

Greg touched on the ongoing discussion about opening up manse funds and some decisions will be made about if they should remain restricted funds.
Ann cautioned the implications it could have on communities of faith being eligible to apply for some grants.
Judith mentioned that the process to go through the Commission to get approval to access the funds is not a terribly difficult or laborious process, and wondered about putting a portion of funds on restriction.
It was also mentioned that unrestricting funds could allow Communities of Faith to continue to worship till there are no people attending services and wondering if this was a good act of stewardship. This sparked discussion about how to support “end of life” care for churches much like is done for people. This is a topic that might be worth looking into further.
There will be ongoing conversation at Executive on where to go with this and Greg welcomed the feedback that the commission has shared.

**Other Business**

1. **Executive Report:** Greg Simpson

Greg recapped at the Executive met at the being of September.
At That meeting there had been conversation about Mt Zion Early Learning Center prior to their meeting with this commission. Greg has emailed Phil for an update on where things stand with TUCC and Hope Council if they have reached out and been in touch yet.
There is lots going on in St. Thomas and Greg has been emailing with Paul Browning about the use of First United for Early Years space and usage by a Christian School.

Central United is looking at renting space to a business that offers respite care.

1. **Congregational Support Minister Report:**

Essex is still working at transferring property.
Avondale and Otterville are working through next steps as their minister is leaving, this has caused some difficult situations regarding collaborative ministry. John, Ann, Micol and Tanya are involved in supporting them thought this transition.
This highlighted the important of tracking collaborative agreements and making sure they are updated.

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

**Worship by**:

**MOTION** that the Congregational Support Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**MOTION** **AGREED**