**Pastoral Relations Commission**

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

***Minutes December 10, 2024 at 9:00am via Zoom*** 



**Roster:** Kerry Stover (OM, Chair), Paul Browning (OM), Jim Drummond (L), Carol Ferguson (OM), Louise Hall (L), Melodee Lovering (DLM), Norm MacPherson (L), Mary Anne Silverthorn (L), Tracy Wygiera (L)

**Staff Support:** Rev. Micol Cottrell, Pastoral Relations Minister [mcottrell@united-church.ca](mailto:mcottrell@united-church.ca)

Michele Petick, Communications and Administrative Assistant,  [MPetick@united-church.ca](mailto:MPetick@united-church.ca)

**Present:** Kerry Stover (OM, Chair), Paul Browning (OM), Jim Drummond (L), Carol Ferguson (OM), Louise Hall (L), Melodee Lovering (DLM), Norm MacPherson (L), Mary Anne Silverthorn (L), Micol Cottrell, Pastoral Relations Minister

**Regrets:** Michele Petick, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Tracy Wygiera (L)

**Welcome, Land acknowledgement, and Constitute the Meeting**: Chair, Kerry Stover

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many indigenous nations**.** We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and will continue to move forward as followers of Christ to be people of Love, of Truth, and of Reconciliation. And now in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church we begin this meeting of the ARW Pastoral Relations Commission.

**Opening Worship/Devotional:** ​Jim Drummond​ - Advent

**Opening Motions:**

Approval of the Draft Agenda:  December 10, 2024

MOTION: That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Agenda for December 10th, 2024 as amended.      
  
Moved by Mary Anne Silverthorn, seconded by Norm MacPherson.   
  
**CARRIED**

Approval of Previous Minutes:    November 12, 2024  
  
MOTION: That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting are accepted as amended.      
  
Moved Jim Drummond, seconded by Paul Browning

**CARRIED**

On hold:  *February 13 & March 12, 2024, until Pretima’s account can be opened and the draft minutes can be located from those two meetings.*

**E mail Motions to be noted for the minutes:**

* Sacramental Rights for Kathleen Welch, Hebron UC, from 2023, email sent Nov. 13th
* Fresh Start Facilitators email sent Nov. 26th.

**Unfinished Business:**

**From May 9, 2023:**

**Pulpit Supply (non-UCC) Policy:** Micol Cottrell added to Dropbox, now Sharepoint, for future reference (October folder). *See attached document that Melodee Lovering submitted (also currently in Sharepoint) and Kerry edited a few items in yellow colour.*

*Discussion Nov. 12, 2024, continue during December meeting.*

* Tabled to the end of the meeting

**From Sept. 12, 2023**

**The renaming of the Human Resources Commission to Pastoral Relations Commission** has been approved as updated by the Executive Representative Louise Hall.

**Business**

1. **Information to be noted** (Covenanting Services, Life events of ministry personnel)

**Covenanting Services:** Greg Simpson, St. Andrews, Chatham (Tracey to follow up); Metropolitan – February 2nd.   
  
Paul Browning will follow up with Cottam Pastoral Charge (date unknown).

**Deaths:**None

1. **Consent Docket** – Micol (in Sharepoint)

**Approval of Consent Docket**

**Consent Docket for ARW PR Commission**

Date:  December 10, 2024

**Approval of new appointments:**

That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council concur with the request of St. David’s Pastoral Charge, Woodstock, to appoint Nancy Vandenberghe, DLM, FT, from 2025-02-01 to 2026-06-30 according to the terms agreed to in ChurchHub on 2024-11-25 pending correction to phone allowance (minimum $600) and that a license to administer the sacraments be granted for the length of the appointment.

**Voluntary Associate Ministry (VAM) Applications:**

That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council endorses the application of Margaret Murray, OM-R and Mount Elgin Pastoral charge to enter a Voluntary Associate Ministry.  **Michele asks: Does this get pulled from the consent docket?**

MOTION: That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council approve the Consent Docket as amended.     
  
Moved Mary Anne Silverthorn, seconded by Louise Hall

**CARRIED**

1. **Motions outside of Consent Docket**
2. **Kettle and Stoney Point Pastoral Charge Position Description**

MOTION: That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council Acknowledges and Supports the position description for a minister, PT, 20 hrs/week for Kettle and Stoney Point Pastoral Charge.

Moved by Paul Browning, seconded by Jim Drummond

**CARRIED**

1. **Reports**

**Pastoral Relations Minister**: Micol Cottrell

* No written report.
* Commission name changed to Pastoral Relations Commission.
* Liaisons gatherings will begin again in January and continue every other month.
* M&P Training and Gatherings continue to go well.
* Search Team Training is well attended.
* New policy changes from The National Church replacing the Workplace Discrimination, Violence and Harassment Policy and a new Creating Safe and Respectful Environment policy into one document which is in effect now and will be published publicly in January 2025.
* United Fresh Start peer groups have been formed.

**Liaison co-ordinator –** Jim Drummond

* Remove Ingersoll, Glencoe, Dorchester
* Add Eric Skillings to Charing Cross
* Add Louise Hall to Port Lambton
* Add Tim Hackborn to St. Clair
* Change Avondale to Avondale, Tilsonburg
* Add Kerry Stover to Mount Byrdges Pastoral Charge

MOTION: That the Pastoral Relations Commission of Antler River Watershed approve the Liaisons coordinator and/or the chair of the Pastoral Relations commission to appoint liaisons – to be reported for information at the next meeting.

Moved by Melodee Lovering, seconded by Louise Hall.

**CARRIED**

**Licensed Lay Worship Leader Resource Team**: Mary Anne Silverthorn

* Doing Interviews late January. Names to be brought forward in the new year.
* Doing workshop in April 2025.

**Executive Committee Representative:** Louise Hall

* Name of the commission changed to the Pastoral Relations Commission
* Executive Meeting of November 13th
  + Talked about three new funding streams that we’re going to implement
  + Fairfield Museum provided some funding for restoration
  + GC 45 new alternate appointed – Rev. Laurie O’Leary.
  + GC 45 – Louise Hall appointed as a commissioner (was an alternate)
* Tri Regional Executive Meeting held December 6th followed by ARW Executive meeting.
  + Mission & Support Grants for ARW Discipleship and Justice approved.
  + Discussion about effective leadership from Greg Smith Young. Agreed to support in principle his proposal but details need to be worked out. Greg Simpson appointed to part of the working group on effective leadership.
  + Regional Council Affirm Network – want to get more people involved. Looking for someone from ARW, going to ask nominating committee to find someone who will serve on the Regional Council Affirm Network. Responsibility will include reporting back to the Executive.
  + Quotes going to be gathered for regional council office sign.
  + Spring Meeting discussion, a play, car rally.
  + Ongoing conversation about staff compliment and the amount of work they are assigned. What can commissions do to help?
  + Combine Regional Council Meetings to conserve staff resources.

1. **New Business:**

Pulpit Supply Policy – deferred to February.

**Next Meeting:** ​Tuesday, January 14, 2025​ at **​9:00 a.m.​** by Zoom.

**Worship/Closing Prayers for next meeting:** ​Carol Ferguson​   
(Rotating List: Paul Browning, Jim Drummond, Carol Ferguson, Louise Hall, Melodee Lovering, Norm MacPherson, Mary Anne Silverthorn, Kerry Stover, Tracy Wygiera)

**Closing Prayer**: offered by ​Jim Drummond​

**Adjournment:**

Motion: that the Human Resources Commission of Antler River Watershed Regional Council having concluded its business, be adjourned at\_\_10:57\_\_\_a.m.

**MOTION** **​AGREED​**