

Covenant Commission
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

10:00 a.m. Place: Mount Forest United Church

Roster: (10) Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Ted Oldfield, Ross Carter, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Connie Shiell

Staff Support: Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant
Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Present: Ann Harbridge, Judy Chalmers, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough, Arthur Hills, Marg Bakker

Regrets: Ted Oldfield, Ross Carter, Norm Eygenraam,

Absent: Connie Shiell

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Ann welcomed everyone and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus the Christ for all business brought before it.

Acknowledging the Land: The land on which we are meeting was first lived upon by our indigenous brothers and sisters.

Opening Worship: Thom McDonough Ephesians 5:15 Reflection upon upcoming election.
Concluding with prayer.

Opening Agreements:

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agree on the agenda.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agree to receive the notes from the **August 8, 2019** meeting and approve the minutes of **Thursday, August 15, 2019** as circulated.

Business Arising

1. None

Consent Docket

1. Hensall United Church – Request to use Restricted Funds

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways agrees with the request of Hensall United Church for the use of capital funds in the amount of \$2,500 with the understanding that they will complete their Community of Faith profile and provide an

overall picture of their planned use of funds in the future before any more funds are released.

2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways agrees with the following pastoral charge supervisor appointments:

- a. Hepworth-Sauble pastoral charge – Ed Laksmanis starting October 1, 2019
- b. Dungannon Union pastoral charge and Knox United Church, Belgrave – Betty Graber Watson starting October 15, 2019
- c. Trinity United Church, Grand Valley – Felicia Urbanski starting September 6, 2019
- d. Trinity United Church, Listowel and Atwood United Church – Tom Dunbar starting October 1, 2019; and Gail Clarkson to attend meetings Trinity, Listowel Sept. 11 and Atwood Sept. 17
- e. Thank Mary Elizabeth Piercy for her service as a PCS for Grenfel United Church and Angus United Church and release her from her duties. (Norm Munroe (RO) has been appointed)
- f. Alma United Church - Arthur Hills will attend the congregational meeting on October 6 (after worship). Greg Smith Young, the pastoral charge supervisor, is away.

3. Wasaga Beach – Request to approve Mortgage

MOTION by Arthur Hills / Sandy Loomis that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the mortgage arranged with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) in the amount of \$1,800,000.00.

MOTION

CARRIED

4. Zion United Church, New Hamburg

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways

receives for information the Cover Page, Living Faith Story Worksheet, Demographics Worksheet, Real Property Worksheet, Manse Information Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Financial Statement, and Fund Activity and Monthly Statement of Balance as attachments to the Financial Viability Worksheet from Zion United Church, New Hamburg;

agrees with the recommendation of full time minister up to Category F;

asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison for the search process; and

agrees with the governance model based on the streamlined model dated May 31, 2019.

Discussion

5. Expression of interest – Kate Crawford, Lyn Workman. John to bring names to the Executive for nomination.

John to contact resource pool interests to determine willingness in Pastoral Charge Supervisors or other forthcoming opportunities and put a note in the newsletter.

John to arrange a training for Pastoral Charge Supervisors.

PCS training Saturday October 19 or 26, 1-4. At Durham?

- 6. Budget for each commission is \$5000 – What are the priorities?
 - a. Face to face meetings Sept, Oct, May June (or April, May – not the month of the regional AGM), otherwise Zoom meetings.

Allotment = \$5000	Expenses	5000
CC Mtg Mileage (150km/p x .40 x 12 x 4 mtgs)	-2880	2120
Meetings (\$15/p x 12=180 x 4 = 720) Lunch	-720	1400
Training Workshops	-200	1200

- 7. Review of Western Ontario Waterways Governance Handbook and Covenant Commission role. How are we going to accomplish:
 - a. Changes in the Life cycle of a congregation. Helping a congregation assess its health and plan for its future and hold the required meetings to facilitate change;
 - John to report at Covenant Commission meetings when a change is made known and what has been done as a result (i.e. sent Community of Faith profile information.)
 - b. Articulation of mission. Working with a congregation to identify its ministry, preparing the Living Faith Story documentation;
 - Done with support of staff person.
 - c. Using the documents prepared in b) to identify its capacity to support ministry personnel;
 - Reviewed at Covenant Commission meetings
 - d. Assessing the use of resources for the fulfillment of mission, including property both real and personal;
 - Reviewed at Covenant Commission meetings
 - e. Reviewing proposed governance models for compliance with United Church requirements and helpful advice.
 - Reviewed at Covenant Commission meetings
 - f. Reviewing annual self-assessments from communities of faith and providing feedback;
 - Resource pool can organize.
 - g. Reviewing record keeping and archives for communities of faith;
 - Get resource pool people to do this. Could be done with a table at the annual meeting.
 - h. Pastoral charge supervision when a community of faith is without called or appointed ministry personnel;
 - Resource People to be trained
 - i. Other:

- i. Visitors to communities of faith to build relationship
- Marg Bakker had to leave the meeting at 1:55 pm.
- 8. Empowering Staff (and bring back to Covenant Commission for approval)
The Covenant Commission of WOW agrees to empower the Minister for Congregational Support and Mission to:
 - a. Name Pastoral Charge Supervisors and bring assignments to next Covenant Commission meeting for approval;
 - b. Give permission to move forward with approved property sales when sale is within 10% of listing price and give permission to move forward with property sales if conditions and complications to the sale are not major and bring to next Covenant Commission meeting for approval.
- 9. Liaisons:
 - a. It seems that liaison's should be appointed from the outset of knowing a Community of Faith is working toward a search. Discernment around profile information and Supervised Ministry Education should be done earlier than approval at the Covenant Commission.
John to discuss with Diane Blanchard.

Ann closed in prayer 2:03 pm

Next Meeting: 10-10-2019 Mt. Forest United Church, 10am; **Worship by:** Thom McDonough