

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

10 am, Mount Forest UC

Roster: (9) Marg Bakker, Ross Carter, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Arthur Hills, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Connie Shiell

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

Present: Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Ann Harbridge (Chair), Arthur Hills, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough

Regrets: Marg Bakker

Absent: Ross Carter, Connie Shiell

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Introductions were made and all expressed what they are thankful for, as Thanksgiving is this coming weekend.

Acknowledging the Land:

We acknowledge the footprint our meeting and Mt. Forest United Church has on the land. The footprints on this land, past and present have also been made by the Odawa, Anishinabewaki, and Putun First Nations peoples. The Treaty signed in this area is the Saugeen Treaty 45 ½, 1836 (Ottawas and Chippewas). As we make footprints together on this land we seek to do so with respect and a desire for ongoing reconciliation with our First Nations brothers and sisters.

Information from www.native-land.ca and [Treaty Texts](#)

Opening Worship: Thom McDonough read from Hebrews 12, and led the group in prayer

Opening Agreements:

Corresponding Members: none

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** on the agenda as revised.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to approve the minutes of **Thursday, September 12, 2019** as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Terms of Service of Commission members

The ending date is after the annual meeting in May

Term	Name
One year term (ending 2020)	Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills
Two year term (ending 2021)	Ann Harbridge, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough, Connie Shiell
Three year term (ending 2022)	Ross Carter, Kate Crawford, Lyn Workman (Kate & Lyn pending approval from Executive to be appointed to Commission)

2. Nomination of Kate Crawford & Lyn Workman to Covenant Commission. This will be taken to the Executive for approval on October 24, 2019.

The Covenant Commission **agrees** with the nomination of Kate Crawford and Lyn Workman to the Commission and to putting their names forward to the WOW Executive for approval.

Question for exec – what is the nominations process going to be going forward?

3. Pastoral Charge Supervisor training scheduled for October 19, 2019 from 1-4pm at Knox United Church, Durham.

Nine people are registered thus far. John will make available to anyone the slides from the training. John will be discussing what kind of decisions can be made by the governing body and congregation, who can vote, an expectation that reports be completed; this also gives pastoral charge supervisors an opportunity to meet and share experiences.

Question was asked if results of a vote can be released. John to check *The Manual* and provide direction to the commission.

4. Liaisons

Staff (Lynne, Diane and John) will have preliminary discussions, work out how look like and then take it to the respective Commissions with some suggestions. If changes are to be suggested then it will need to be brought to the Executive.

Concern about the length of time it has been taking to post a vacancy was expressed. John noted that the message to share with congregations is that the process can be a lot quicker if the community of faith profile is complete. It was also noted that part of the challenge the Human Resources Commission is facing is a lack of liaisons. Staff are working on determining the best process.

5. Chatsworth-Massie Pastoral Charge name change.

John and Ann explained background and current challenges at Massie which include both the name change issue and the fact that the congregation has someone working outside the bounds of the polity of the UCC serving as pulpit supply.

John is working with the Executive Minister on the pulpit supply issue and has been trying to have a conversation with the governing body, but with no result thus far. (the community of faith has not been forthcoming with contact names and meeting dates of the governing body). As he has had no success in arranging a meeting with the governing body, the name change is on hold for now.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors AGREE

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to appoint the following as pastoral charge supervisors:

- a. Palmerston UC – Gail Clarkson for Annual meeting on February 9, 2020. (Current PCS cannot make it due to Sunday morning conflict.)
- b. Alma United Church - Tom Watson to attend meeting on October 6, 2019 and thank Arthur Hills for his willingness to attend.
- c. Temple Hill – Marg Krauter beginning September 10, 2019
- d. Annesley UC, Markdale – Kathy Underwood starting September 24, 2019
- e. Trinity United Church, Kitchener – Thank Cathie Stewart Savage for her willingness to serve as pastoral charge supervisor and release her; appoint Katherine Edmondstone as pastoral charge supervisor from October 1 – December 31, 2019
- f. Trinity United Church Elmira – Susan Leuty to attend the congregational meeting on October 27, 2019.
- g. Holland Centre United Church – Marg Krauter effective immediately. (*Marg has been functioning as the pastoral charge supervisor since January 2019*)
- h. Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge – Thank Mary Elliott for serving as pastoral charge supervisor during the minister's sabbatical. (John usually sends note and acknowledge)

John noted that pastoral charge supervisors need to let the commission know when they are unable to attend any church meetings so that a replacement for that meeting can be made (this includes regular board meetings).

2. Community of Faith Profiles

a. Dungannon Union Pastoral Charge & Knox United Church, Belgrave

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive for information the financial statements, Covenant of Cooperation with Knox United Church, Belgrave, and the Community of Faith Profile worksheets (Cover Page, Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Real Property Worksheet, and Living Faith Story) from Dungannon Union Pastoral Charge (including Dungannon United Church and Trinity United Church); agrees with its recommendation viability to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 20 hours per week; and,

receive for information the financial statements, Covenant of Cooperation with Dungannon Union Pastoral Charge, and the Community of Faith Profile worksheets (Cover Page, Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Real Property Worksheet, and Living Faith Story) from Knox United Church Belgrave; agrees with its recommendation viability to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 20 hours per week (This totals a Category F for 40 hrs per week call or appointment according to the covenant of cooperation); and requests the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.

b. Bloomingdale United Church

In order to be able to call a congregational meeting as per Manual requirements, in order to then sever the pastoral relationship.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive for information the balance and income statements, and the Community of Faith Profile worksheets (Cover Page, Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Real Property Worksheet, and Living Faith Story) from Bloomingdale United Church; agrees with its viability recommendation to call/appoint a minister up to Category D for 10 hours per week; and requests the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.

The commission recommends that Bloomingdale seek ministry partnerships.

3. Creemore Pastoral Charge name change

Creemore pastoral charge has requested a name change (Creemore Pastoral Charge – Official Board Meeting dated June 12, 2019) from Creemore Pastoral Charge to Creemore-New Lowell Pastoral Charge.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the request of Creemore Pastoral Charge to change the name to Creemore-New Lowell Pastoral Charge.

4. Morriston, Mount Carmel-Zion United Church – Approval of renovation for accessible washroom

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to the request of Morriston, Mount Carmel-Zion United Church for approval to complete an accessible washroom renovation.

Ann wondered if the Commission needs to ask for a community of faith profile prior to considering a renovation request. Maybe send something out to all congregations, advising July 1, 2020 this will come into effect. While it was agreed that having the information would make it easier to make a decision, wouldn't want to this be a hammer.

5. Alsfeldt United Church (Clifford Pastoral Charge) – Approval for a new roof.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to allow Alsfeldt United Church (Clifford Pastoral Charge) to proceed with getting a new roof.

The Commission advises Alsfeldt that if they are going use manse funds in future (funds come due in Nov. 2020), they will need to seek the approval of the Covenant Commission.

6. St. John's United Church, Elmvale – Trustee request for boundary adjustment

St. John's would like to sell the manse. Before doing so they would like to have a boundary adjustment to claim the parking lot and some of the land currently part of the manse property, for the church.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to the request of the Trustees of St. John's United Church, Elmvale to make application for a boundary adjustment between the church and the manse properties.

7. Chesley-Dobbinton Pastoral Charge – dissolution of pastoral charge.

From the Bruce Presbytery November 20, 2018 Minutes:

That Bruce Presbytery, on the recommendation of Pastoral

*Relations/Oversight approves the request from both congregations of the Dobbinton/Chesley Pastoral Charge, that the Pastoral Charge be dissolved so that each congregation becomes a separate faith community. **CARRIED***

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **affirms** the decision of Bruce Presbytery at their November 20, 2018 meeting to dissolve the Chesley-Dobbinton pastoral charge and creates St. John's United Church, Chesley Pastoral Charge and Dobbinton United Church, Dobbinton Pastoral Charge. This decision was affirmed for General Council Office purposes.

New Business

1. Resignation of Ted Oldfield from Covenant Commission. The Covenant Commission **accepted** Ted's resignation with regret and thanks for his time.
2. Review of pastoral charge supervisors – current and required.
Thom McDonough offered to serve as supervisor for Temple Hill, should Marg Krauter want one less community of faith.

Question of Nicholas Forrester's status – appointment or call? John to ask the Human Resources Commission.

3. Upcoming pastoral supervisor training - updated

4. Covenant with Region document

The Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission **agrees** to accept the *Covenant of Mutual Commitment, Accountability and Support* document.

The Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission **agrees** to accept the *Liturgy for Regional Covenanting Service* document.

Ann offered to draft an invitation to be sent out, with background information, regarding the covenanting document/service, to be put in a newsletter and/or on the website. Noted that the covenanting service can be integrated in Sunday service.

The Commission agreed that it would good to see these services happen sooner rather than later. By contacting churches now, it will emphasize that congregations are not alone, there is a regional council to support you and connect with you.

It was suggested that a brief announcement at the Nov. 16th WOW gathering would be beneficial.

Covenant Commission reps to serve as regional council reps at covenanting services:

Judy

Norm

Thom

Possibly Arthur and Sandy

Folks on the resource pool can be representatives as well.

5. Community of Faith self-assessment document

Self assessment checklist – makes community of faith aware of what they should have in place. Tried to make same for all three regions as staff often provide backup for each other. Contact John for latest version of profile forms, (although will accept an older version). Will

soon be able to direct communities of faith to the website, where there will always be an updated version.

The Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission **agrees** to accept the *Community of Faith Self-Assessment Checklist* document, with the following addition:

If your church building is not on a regulated water supply, are you in compliance with provincial regulatory requirements re: water.

John to provide Commission with a list of the documents he has developed so far.

6. Add Report from Executive to future agendas

Norm Eygenraam will provide that report as he is the Covenant Commission representative on the WOW Executive.

As most of what John does ends up on the agenda, he will not do a formal report but will add anything that the Commission needs to be particularly aware of. John outlined his schedule for the next few weeks – he will be on holiday starting Oct. 17 for 2 weeks. He noted the regional office will be closed December 23 to January 3.

7. Consensus Decision Making – 3 articles in Dropbox for reading and future discussion

It was felt that the Commission is working their way into using consensus; the test will come when an item arises and there are varying viewpoints among Commission members.

Ann advised members to let her know if they feel discussion is moving along too quickly; if more time is needed to process something before speaking tell her.

Arthur shared that all four Waterloo churches are now affirming and is being celebrated.

Next Meeting: 11-14-2019 Zoom

Worship by: Arthur Hills

MOTION by Name / Name that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

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item.

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