

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

Thursday, November 14, 2019, 9:30 am, Zoom Call

Roster: (10) Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Ross Carter, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Connie Shiell, Kate Crawford (Rev.), Lyn Workman (starting 200501)

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

Present: Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge, Sandy Loomis, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough, Kate Crawford

Regrets: Ross Carter, Connie Shiell

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Ann Harbridge welcome all and constituted the meeting.

Acknowledging the Land: John Neff from place he is currently sitting

My parents' home (John Neff's), from where I am calling in to this meeting, is on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Huron-Wendat, and Haudenosaunee First Nations people and part of Treaty 57. This land is rich in wildlife and the Moira River meanders through this territory; both giving, as it has for many centuries, good fishing and hunting. We acknowledge our First Nations brothers and sisters, the life giving land and waters as we continue to work toward right relations.

Opening Worship: by Arthur Hills. Arthur read from Isaiah 9 and gave a personal reflection based on the scripture and led the group in 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 approve the minutes of **Thursday, October 10, 2019** as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Nomination of Kate Crawford & Lyn Workman to Covenant Commission. This will be taken to the Executive for approval on October 24, 2019. Approved by WOW Executive at their meeting of October 24, 2019. Lyn is now not available until May 2020.

2. Liaisons

Staff (Lynne, Diane and John) will have preliminary discussions and then take it to the respective Commissions. If changes are to be suggested then it will need to be brought to the Executive. ***The key is to speed up the process.***

It is understood that this is a temporary issue while communities of faith have not created their online profiles in ChurchHub. Staff will seek to inform each other of potential needs for liaisons and unique circumstances in an effort to expedite the process. If a liaison is required earlier, it can be requested of the Human Resources Commission, prior to approval of the community of faith profile.

3. Chatsworth-Massie Pastoral Charge name change.

John updated the commission about the current situation at Massie at the last meeting and said he was awaiting notice of Massie governing body meeting. John noted there have been no further developments.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

- a. Nottawa-Rob Roy Pastoral Charge – Thank Keith Lockhart for serving as pastoral charge supervisor and appoint Jane Sullivan starting January 1, 2020
- b. Temple Hill United Church – Thank Marg Krauter for serving as pastoral charge supervisor and appoint Thom McDonough beginning October 15, 2019.
- c. Shelburne-Primrose Pastoral Charge – appoint Candice Bist to attend meetings of Trinity United Church, Shelburne and Primrose United Church on October 27, 2019 in place of pastoral charge supervisor, Ann Harbridge, who cannot attend. *The Human Resources Commission to be asked to appoint appoint a liaison*
- d. Ebenezer UC, Campbellville – Thank Mary Elliott for serving as pastoral charge supervisor and appoint Heather Leffler beginning October 25, 2019.

Ann noted that the student appointed has worshipped at Heather Leffler's church in the past. *John will followup with Heather and clarify the role of pastoral charge supervisor when there is a student.*

- e. Wasaga Beach United Church – appoint Rudy Plug (OM-R) beginning January 1, 2020.
- f. Thank Doug Trewartha for his support as pastoral charge supervisor to Egmondville United Church and release him from his duties. Egmondville has called Brian Hymers.

2. Community of Faith Profile

- a. St. Andrew's United Church, Hepworth and Sauble Beach United Church

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receive for information from Sauble Beach United Church the 2018 Annual Report, Financial Viability Worksheet, Demographics worksheet,

and

receive from St. Andrew's United Church, Hepworth the 2018 Annual Report, Financial Viability worksheet, Real Property worksheet, and Demographics worksheet,

and

receive from Hepworth-Sauble Beach Pastoral Charge the Demographic Statistical summary, Financial Statistical summary, profile cover page, and 5 Living Faith story video links,

and

agree with the declaration that Hepworth-Sauble Beach pastoral charge is viable to call/appoint a minister at Category F for 40 hours per week

and

ask the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.

b. Knox United Church, Ayr

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives for information the community of faith profile (Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Real Property Worksheet and Living Faith Story) along with the 2019 Budget, 2019 January to August Financial Statement, 2018 Annual Report, from Knox United Church, Ayr; and agree with the declaration that the community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category B for 40 hours per week; and ask the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison to fulfill process.

Arthur Hills noted that Knox wants to keep their student minister on for six months after ordination and are wanting to do visioning in the long term and call a minister in January, 2021.

The Covenant Commission noted for the record that this is to enable the appointment of the current student in place to get ordained. The community of faith will be advised their viability will need to be looked at going forward and a liaison will be appointed to have that conversation.

c. Highland UC, Flesherton-Eugenia

This pastoral charge would like to enter a search process. They have been working with TUCC for amalgamation and visioning processes. Their documentation, though

not on our current worksheets, could be accepted as their CoF profile and a request for a liaison to begin the search process.

*The Covenant Commission agreed to **receive for information** Highland UC's report on amalgamation and will accept as their community of faith profile that report, but will advise more information needs to be provided concerning any calling of a minister. If a liaison would be helpful to them in determining the vacancy, the Covenant Commission will ask the Human Resources Commission to appoint one.*

d. Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **receives for information** the community of faith profile from Primrose United Church (Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Living Faith Story, Real Property, Manse Information (there is no manse in the pastoral charge), Priority of Ministry Categories, and the Service Ontario Parcel Register for Property Identifier; ask Primrose United church to update their deed registered owners from "THE TRUSTEES OF THE PRIMROSE CONGREGATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA" to "The Trustees of Primrose United Church of the United Church of Canada"

and

receives for information from Trinity United Church, Shelburne the Community of Faith Profile (Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Living Faith Story, Real Property, Manse Information (there is no manse in the pastoral charge), Priority of Ministry Categories, financial statement,

and

the Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge 2019 Financial Statement up to Sept 30,

and

agree with the declaration that the pastoral charge is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category C for 40 hours per week;

and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison to work with them on their vacancy.

e. Central Westside United Church, Owen Sound

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **receives for information** the community of faith profile information (Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, real Property Worksheet and Living Faith Story) from Central Westside United Church, Owen Sound.

(They currently have a minister so they are not moving toward a search and do not need to make a declaration about viability to support ministry time).

f. Wyevale United Church

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **receives for information** the community of faith profile information (Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, real Property Worksheet and Living Faith Story) from Wyevale United Church; and agree with the declaration that the community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 10 hours per week.

John has been involved in conversations with Wyevale.

The Covenant Commission **agreed by consensus** to accept the consent docket, with the changes discussed and agreed to.

New Business

1. Walters Falls Community Church for information

John received a phone call from member, Rod Saunders asking about the sale of the Walters Falls United Church property and the disbursement of funds. Public information was offered. If there is to be further information or discussion a formal letter from the governing body was requested (as Rob Saunders has no affiliation with UCC). Building is going to be sold and TUCC (Toronto United Church Council) is overseeing the sale.

Ann noted that it is very important in this particular situation to keep the covenant commission apprised. The covenant commission recognized that John had this interaction through documentation of this phone call.

Ann provided background on the situation at Walters Falls.

2. Report from John Neff

Held a workshop in Brussels UC for Shared Ministry Agreements (Covenants of Cooperation) and touched on Innovative Ministries. 23 had indicated attendance. 36 people attended representing 16 communities of faith.

Sabbatical Leave – Kate Crawford: Huron Shores United Church, May to August 2020. Elise Feltrin is willing to be the pastoral charge supervisor during that time.

The Covenant Commission **agreed** to approve Kate Crawford's request for sabbatical leave and wish Kate and the congregation well as they move ahead with plans. *John to contact Elise Feltrin to be appointed pastoral charge supervisor.*

3. Central Westside UC request to take a loan from the restricted Manse funds for the operating costs with a moratorium on repayment until January 2024.

After much discussion regarding this request – including providing background on amalgamation of two churches in the area and the viability of the community of faith:

*The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the request to use \$100,000 from restricted funds and removes the condition of repayment, provided Central Westside UC does work on looking at future viability and comes back to the Commission with a plan. This may include conversations with other local congregations, shared ministries, amalgamations and perhaps the use of some of the money to do consultation work. (with EDGE being one recommendation).*

John to communicate with Central Westside.

4. Thamesview UC

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees with the request of Thamesview United Church, Fullarton for the project to strip lead based paint and repaint the sanctuary at a cost of \$146,000 plus HST; and approve the use of the remaining \$30,000 from the manse fund.

There was much discussion regarding the viability of the community of faith and concern expressed regarding the amount of the project and the possibility of covering costs. The Covenant Commission agreed to defer this until December. The community of faith will be invited to talk to the commission at the next meeting to discuss the request and how they anticipate covering costs. If there is a time issue before December's meeting, a zoom call can be scheduled.

John to speak to the community of faith and emphasize the request is deferred because the commission has concerns.

5. Order of the day (10 a.m)

St. Luke's United Church, Cambridge – redevelopment proposal (Stated hour 10 a.m)
David Mitten from St. Luke's joined the meeting. He offered some background on the proposal. He indicated that at this time however, there is no rush to sell the property. No plan to immediately sell the property. A potential sale is endorsed by the trustees. David indicated that he presented the property sale proposal to the council as an option for consideration. St. Luke's Place is a potential buyer, but no offer has been made and no immediate action is being taken. He left the call.

The commission discussed the proposal in greater detail. John emphasized that right now, all the commission would be doing is agreeing in principle. St. Luke's would have to come back to the commission for approvals should action be taken.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees in principle** to the redevelopment plan of St. Luke's United Church, Cambridge to sell .75 acres of their property, do renovations to remaining property, and invest the remaining capital with the understanding of ongoing communication and permissions according to

the United Church of Canada and Western Ontario Regional Council policies. No future decisions will be made until the community of faith profile is received.

John left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

6. For clarification, Thom McDonough was advised, that yes, the process to appoint a minister (when the current minister has given notice) must be followed even though the community of faith has someone in mind to ask.
7. Arthur Hills requested that documents be placed in the dropbox in pdf format.

Ann noted that the WOW website has been launched. John will forward current versions of toolkit documents to be added to the site.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Ann send off into day with God's blessings. 11:05 am

Next Meeting: 12-12-2019 Zoom Call 9:30am