

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

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Thursday, November 12, 2019, **9:30 am**, Zoom Call

**Roster:** (9) Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Ross Carter, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Kate Crawford (Rev.), Lyn Workman (Rev.) (starting 200501)

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

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

**Regrets:** Judy Chalmers

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

**Acknowledging the Land:**

I (John Neff) am calling in to this meeting from my home which is on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki and Odawa First Nations people and part of the Saugeen Treaty 47 ½ of 1836. This land has a rich and diverse history. It is abundant in lakes, rivers, trees and wildlife. We acknowledge our First Nations brothers and sisters, the life giving land and waters as we continue to work toward right relations.

**Opening Worship:** Ann read the poem *Heart Gifts*, with the hope that the gifts we receive and give during this Christmas season are those heart gifts. Ann led the group in prayer.

**Opening Agreements:**

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive representatives from Thamesview United Church, Fullerton as corresponding members to this meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** on the agenda with named additions.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to approve the minutes of **Thursday, November 14, 2019** as circulated and amended.

**Business Arising**

1. Chatsworth-Massie Pastoral Charge name change.

Awaiting notice of Massie governing body meeting. No change.

2. Thamesview UC – John McIntosh to join the meeting at **10:00 am**

John McIntosh, Eleanor Williams and Dave Williams, from Thamesview UC joined the meeting at 10 am.

John McIntosh spoke to the Commission's concern regarding raising the necessary funds for the project as outlined.

Fundraising events through 2018 and 2019 to date:	\$75,000
Council pledged:	\$30,000
	Total: \$105,000
Congregation pledges: \$13,000	
Cost of project: \$146,000 plus HST	

John McIntosh noted also that Thamesview undertook and completed a major accessibility addition two years ago. Cost of which was just under \$400,000, which was fully paid for with fundraising.

The Thamesville representatives then left the meeting.

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 **approves** the use of the remaining \$30,000 from the manse fund.

John Neff noted that it would be advisable to indicate to communities of faith that at some point in the future requests to the Covenant Commission will need to be accompanied by the community of faith's profile. It was agreed that such a notice should be put in the newsletter early in the new year, giving a deadline of January 1, 2021 for completion of community of faith profiles. Communities of faith who have completed their profiles should be reminded to ensure financial information and goals are updated. John Neff will ask Thamesville to complete their community of faith profile.

### Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

- a. Bloomingdale United Church – Gary Borrato starting immediately for vacancy.
- b. Huron Shores United Church – Elise Feltrin during Kate Crawford's sabbatical and ConEd – May 1, 2020 – August 24, 2020.

Coming up Tavistock, Harriston by May, Elora Bethany for sabbatical next April, Ebenezer will need a replacement for Heather Leffler

2. Community of Faith Profile

- a. Highland UC, Flesherton-Eugenia

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the recommendation that Highland UC, Flesherton-Eugenia is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 15 hours per week and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.

Flesherton-Eugenia is in talks re: shared ministry.

b. Belwood-Metz Pastoral Charge

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives for information the community of faith profile information from St. John's United Church, Belwood and St. Paul's United Church, Metz, of the Belwood Metz Pastoral Charge (Demographic, Financial Viability, Real Property, Living Faith Story and Manse worksheets) and agrees with the recommendation Belwood-Metz Pastoral Charge is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 32 hours per week and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.

Belwood-Metz is in preliminary talks re: a shared ministry agreement possibility.

3. St. John's United Church, Alliston – Lease agreement

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the lease agreement between St. John's United Church Alliston and Play, Learn, Grow Academy Ltd.

4. Huron Shores United Church – Emergency Action Plan

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives for information the Emergency Action Plan from Huron Shores United Church.

This document can be shared with communities of faith.

5. Holland Centre United Church – Disbandment Proposal

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the disbandment proposal of Holland Centre United Church effective June 30, 2020 and the disbursement of assets as follows:

15 % The Indigenous Church

25 % Mission & Service (12.5 to current & 12.5 to endowment)

25 % Regional Council

5 % Archives

30 % At the discretion of the Holland Centre congregation, as follows:

10 % Grey Bruce Chaplaincy

5 % Silver Lake Camp Kitchen Replacement Project

5 % Canadian Foodgrains Bank

4 % Local United Churches

1 % Women's Centre, OSHARE, United Way, Safe N Sound, Chapman House, Hanover Hospice

The 1 % recipients are local charities previously supported by Holland Centre United Church.

There was brief discussion regarding the disbursement of the 1%. John Neff referred to the property policy. Query, what happens if building not sold by June 30? Reverts to regional council (Covenant Commission), regional council appoints trustees. In future, the practice will be not to set a date for disbandment unless everything is taken care of (to be included in new handbook). New resource pool to be set up as property group.

6. First United Church, Cambridge – Lease agreement

The sale of the building has been held up and they would like to establish a lease agreement with the purchaser until the sale can happen.

(There was a time crunch for the lease approval – Friday December 6, 2019. This was approved by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister, after consultation with Caitlin McIntyre, legal counsel for the Board of Trustees of First United Church, Cambridge, two members of the Board of Trustees, and John Neff. The Covenant Commission is being asked to authorize the lease agreement retroactively at the first available opportunity.)

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the lease agreement between the Trustees of First United Church, Cambridge and Trinity Centres Cambridge and the sub-lease agreement between Trinity Centres Cambridge and River City Christian Reformed Church beginning December 6, 2019.

7. Trinity UC, Annan

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives for information the community of faith profile information from Trinity United Church, Annan (Cover Page, Demographic, Financial Viability, Real Property, Living Faith Story, and December 8, 2019 congregational meeting); agrees with the recommendation Annan-Woodford Pastoral Charge is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.

### **New Business**

1. Resignation of Connie Shiell from the Covenant Commission.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives with regret the resignation of Connie Shiell from the Covenant Commission due to job commitments.

2. Villages - Covenant with Regional Council – April 26 or May 3, 2020

This includes 5 communities of faith and 2 regional councils (ARW & WOW).

A regional council representative to be appointed to attend. For all covenanting services between communities of faith and the regional council, John Neff will arrange for a representative from commission or resource pool and will put that person in contact with the community of faith. Commission members will be emailed first.

3. Halo Canada Project – Mike Wood Daly

The Covenant Commission reviewed the project and agreed to decline to participate.

4. Forest Hill United Church, Kitchener – Covenant of Mutual Agreement – January 5, 2020

Arthur Hills may attend as the location is nearby.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa will represent the regional council. Symbols offered by the community of faith are:

1. The Holy Currency image which represents a vision of opening our doors and sharing our treasures of truth, wellness, gracious leadership, money, relationship, time and place;
  2. Red Neighbour t-shirt from the city, a symbol of celebrating in the community the gifts of love, acceptance, connection and support with all our neighbours;
  3. A copy of Partners on the Hill, a symbol of the relationship we continue to build with all the groups who share our facility
  4. A Food Truck Frenzy sign a sign of helping our neighbours connect with each other and the church
  5. (poster board of our Refugee Family) a symbol of us reaching out to the wider world and our care for those in it:
5. Executive Meeting Update – Norm Eygenraam

How to ensure timely communication of events/life changes was raised by the Commission relative to the upcoming covenant services. Norm noted that the same conversation was held at the recent Executive meeting Nov. 21 & 22. Discussion at executive emphasized need for the flow of information to be much improved. Executive also noted that too many of our activities are staff-driven and need to be more driven by volunteers. Need to ensure staff don't fall into the pattern of taking on work that the commissions or Executive should be doing.

Possibilities to improve communication: website add-on (community events), email blasts for upcoming events.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 - Zoom Call 9:30 am.

Kate Crawford will act as chair in Ann Harbridge's absence.

Worship for January 9: Thom McDonough

Acknowledgement of land: Arthur Hills

John Neff recommended Native-Land.ca as a great starting place to get a good idea of all Indigenous groupings/treaties.

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

MOTION

Choose an item.

Ann closed the meeting with an Advent benediction.

Meeting adjourned 10:37 am.