

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

Thursday, January 9, 2020, **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: Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant
Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Present: Kate Crawford (Acting Chair), Margaret Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough

Regrets: Ann Harbridge, Sandy Loomis

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Kate Crawford welcomed all and constituted the meeting.

Acknowledging the Land: Arthur Hills

My home in Waterloo is governed by the Haldimand Treaty. I acknowledge the traditional territory upon which I live. For many thousands of years, the Attiwonderonk, the Anishnawbe, and the Haudenosaunee have sought to walk gently on this land. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.

Opening Worship: by Thom McDonough

Thom shared a reading on contemplative cultural resistance from *Geez* magazine, and Hebrews 13:2 and led the commission in a short prayer.

Opening Agreements:

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree by consensus** to approve the minutes of **Thursday, December 12, 2019** as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Chatsworth-Massie Pastoral Charge name change and Michael Henkel
Awaiting notice of Massie governing body meeting. Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and John plan to visit soon.

There was discussion concerning the ongoing issue regarding the pastoral leadership at Massie. The person presently serving at Massie does not meet the requirements of the

United Church of Canada. It was felt that as this is an ongoing issue that has not been resolved, for the sake of clarity, he should be named.

The WOW Covenant Commission **agreed by consensus** that Michael Henkel be named in the minutes for the sake of clarity when reviewing the situation at Massie Pastoral Charge.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

- a. Rudy Plug – to attend board meeting at St. John’s United Church, Elmvale on Monday January 13, 2020. (Meg Jordan on restorative care).
- b. Rev. Roz Vincent Haven – Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo starting January 8, 2020. It was suggested that the specific end date be removed. The commission was assured that Rev. Vincent Haven would be comfortable with this change and Arthur Hills will confirm the revised timing with her.

2. Community of Faith Profile

a. Wasaga Beach UC

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive for information the Community of faith self-assessment, and the Community of Faith Profile worksheets (Demographics Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet, Real Property Worksheet, and Living Faith Story) from Wasaga Beach United Church; **does not agree with its viability recommendation to call/appoint a minister up to Category E for 30 hours per week**. Requests the Human Resources Commission appoint a liaison to help them move forward until there is mutual agreement between the Covenant Commission and the community of faith regarding hours. **Agreed by consensus.**

To be communicated to the community of faith, that the Covenant Commission will reconvene and will provide their approval, should the community of faith update the viability recommendation with no limitations on category and 40 hours/week. **Agreed by consensus.**

John Neff will contact Wasaga Beach United and will inform them of the above. If the community of faith does not agree with the action indicated, they will be invited to discuss with the Commission at their February meeting.

MOTION by Margaret Baker / Arthur Hills

THAT the consent docket be approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

New Business

1. Report from Executive – Norm

No meeting since last report. Commission minutes need to be posted on the WOW website.

2. Bethany United Church – Request to use Housing Fund

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees to the request of Bethany United Church to make use of the remaining balance in their housing fund for the ongoing ministry of Bethany United Church, and wishes them well. **Agreed by consensus.**

It was felt that the Bethany UC submission and letter was very well thought out and the Commission was quite happy to support Bethany's choice. Kate noted that the presentation seems very proactive about the situation. The Commission looks forward to seeing how the shared ministry possibility will unfold.

3. For Information: the Regional Council has received the disbandment funds from Chatsworth United Church which closed June 30, 2019. Kate suggested that the receipt of the cheque in the amount of \$130,000.00 should be acknowledged with gratitude. John will followup.
4. St. Luke's UC, Cambridge – For Information Only - offer of Purchase and Sale
John noted that the church needs to get their approval from their board, then have a congregational meeting; and Covenant Commission approval by April. John brought this forward to alert the Commission that this is coming. If all goes through, any sale funds would be held as restricted funds until a plan for their use is provided by St. Luke's UC.
5. The Commission reviewed the notice John prepared for the WOW newsletter regarding community of faith profiles, as requested at the last Commission meeting. No changes to the wording.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2020 - Zoom Call 9:30 AM

Worship by: Norm Eygenraam

Regrets: Kate Crawford

Land Acknowledgement: Judy Chalmers