

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

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Thursday, February 13, 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:** Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission  
Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Present:** Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills

**Regrets:** Ross Carter, Kate Crawford, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** Ann

**Acknowledging the Land:** Arthur

We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we are all gathered. In 1784 the Haldimand Treaty granted a tract of land to the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois peoples as compensation for their alliance with British Forces during the American Revolution. This tract of land includes 10 kilometers on either side of the Grand River which is known as the Haldimand Tract. The original peoples of this land include the Attiwonderonk (also known as the Neutral peoples) and the Anishinabek. Today less than 5% of this territory remains Six Nations land.

The Original Peoples have sought to walk gently on this land and we endeavour to follow their example. We seek a new relationship with First Nations peoples through Truth and Reconciliation and we actively seek Right Relations based in honour and with deep respect.

**Opening Worship:** Norm Eygenraam

Norm Eygenraam read from *"The Gift of Change: chapter 4 Spending time with God"* by Marianne Williamson, followed by prayer.

**Opening Agreements:**

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive representatives from Wasaga Beach UC (Jayne Nelson, Shirley Coates-Male, Robin McFadyen), Ross Langman from St. John's UC, Elmvale as corresponding members to this meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Minutes:

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

**Business Arising**

1. **Chatsworth-Massie Pastoral Charge** – Massie UC: Michael Henkel pulpit supply; PC name change. Awaiting notice of Massie governing body meeting. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and John Neff will visit on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for the worship service and annual meeting.
2. **Wasaga Beach UC** – follow-up to viability recommendation  
There was some confusion. They have agreed that the intent was for fulltime at category F. They will be looking for an Interim Minister, if available.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to the updated viability recommendation to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week from Wasaga Beach United Church.

3. **Upcoming Covenant of Mutual Commitment Services** (will be a regular addition to the agenda)

Church	Date (2020)	Time	CC Rep	Notes
Centennial UC, Stayner	May 3	10:30 am		
Thames Road-Elmville PC	April 26	2:00 pm	Ann Harbridge possibly	Along with covenant with minister
Kilsyth- Keady/North Derby PC	Tbd			
Villages Cooperative (incl. 5 CoFs and 2 RCs, both WOW & ARW)	Apr 26 or May 3,	tbd	ARW & WOW coffs, John Neff will work with Lynne Allin (ARW) to create liturgy	
Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont	June 7	10:30 am	Would like the rep to also be guest preacher Norm Eygenraam can possibly be available - will confirm	Their Anniversary

**Consent Docket****1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors**

- a. Kate Ballagh-Steeper to Londesborough and Auburn United churches starting March 16, 2020 for approx. 6 weeks while current pastoral charge supervisor (Randy Banks) is away.
- b. Bonnie Holiday to Brucefield United Church starting March 16, 2020 for approx. 6 weeks while minister (Randy Banks) is away.
- c. Sue Campbell to Elora-Bethany PC (Elora UC and Bethany UC) from April 13 – July 5, 2020 while minister Greg Smith-Young will be on sabbatical.
- d. Sheryl Spencer to Alma United Church from April 13 – July 5, 2020 while pastoral charge supervisor Greg Smith-Young will be on sabbatical.
- e. Maryann Skinner to Bloomingdale United Church effective immediately and thank Gary Boratto for his willingness to serve as pastoral charge supervisor.
- f. Thank Rev. Roz Vincent Haven for her service as pastoral charge supervisor for Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo.

John Neff is planning to do online training for pastoral charge supervisors.

## 2. Annual Reports

- a. Trinity United Church, Kitchener received for information
- b. St. Marys United Church received for information

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to the Consent Docket.

It was suggested that annual reports received should be should be reviewed, bringing forward any issues/concerns to the commission. Judy Chalmers, Arthur Hills (financials), and Norm Eygenraam volunteered to do reviews, if a template checklist of items to look for could be provided. Ann Harbridge and John Neff will work together on putting together “bullets”/”talking points”.

### Report from Executive – Norm Eygenraam

The next meeting of Executive is February 19<sup>th</sup>. Norm Eygenraam will report back to the commission at the March meeting. If there is anything the Covenant Commission would like to bring to the attention of Executive, let Norm know.

### New Business

#### 1. Commission Budget

Suggested budget provided by John Neff. He will keep track, monitor costs and keep the commission updated. The commission has \$5,000 for meetings and \$10,000 for use as determined by the commission. It was noted that the numbers in the budget are an estimate; will need to keep track and learn from it.

#### 2. Victoria Memorial UC, Honeywood - update

Had a discussion with Trustee Ron Wilson (200116). The monument has yet to be erected and the well finished. They will attend to both in the spring. John Neff encouraged a completion date by the end of June 2020 and remaining funds disbursed.

#### 3. Thames Road Elmville Pastoral Charge, near Exeter

Demolition of old unused shed to make room for parking.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to the request of to demolish the old shed to make room for parking.

#### 4. Covenant of Mutual Commitment – see chart

- a. Centennial United Church, Stayner date tbd.
- b. Thames Road-Elmville – Sunday April 26, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. (alternate May 3). Will be done at same time as covenanting with new minister.
- c. Kilsyth- Keady/North Derby Pastoral Charge – Would like to have one service for both churches in June. The liturgy will be adapted to suit. Date tbd.
- d. Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont – Sunday June 7, 2020.

Symbols:

- Tea pot – representing the hospitality and welcome we offer to our community and to the wider church
- A labyrinth – representing our spiritual life and journey and the invitation to others to join in that spiritual journey, as well as the appreciation we have for the support of the wider church in constructing the labyrinth

- A circle of friends candle holder – representing the love and friendship experienced by our church family as we journey together in the light and love of God

5. **Wasaga Beach United Church** – Change in loan terms with TUCC. **Stated hour of 10am**  
John provided a brief history, noting that TUCC has no concerns with this minor revision to funding.  
Shirley Coates-Male, Wasaga Beach United Church, joined the call and spoke briefly to the project.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** with the request of Wasaga Beach United Church for loan modification with Toronto United Church Council.

Shirley Coates-Male expressed her thanks to the commission and left the call. John Neff will send Shirley Coates-Male an email confirmation of the decision.

6. **Technology HUB test**

John Neff reviewed the technology which will enable realtime, live, participatory services. Looking to do some live testing and there are some costs associated with testing.

Ann Harbridge offered Trinity Centennial, Rosemount as a possible test site (they already have a piece of the equipment required). Ann will take this to the congregation's annual meeting on March 1 for approval.

7. **St. John's UC, Elmvale** – Sale of Manse property to Elmvale Active Seniors Residence Corporation. **Stated hour of 10:30am** (corresponding member Ross Langman was unable to join the meeting)

John referred the commission to the detailed information in the dropbox. The church is not partnering to build the seniors' residence – it is a redirectment of property.

**MOTION:** Norm van Eygenraam / Marg Bakker

The Covenant Commission **agrees** to the request of the Trustees of St. John's United Church, Elmvale to the sale of the 3 acre lot the legal description which is Part of S. ½ Lot 4, Con 9, Flos, Part 1, Plan 51R-36027 and municipal address of Queen St. East, Elmvale for the amount of \$260,000.

**Motion Carried.**

8. **Walters Falls United Church.**

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council names Thom McDonough, Marg Krauter, and Judy Chalmers as trustees to Walters Falls United Church and disbands Walters falls United Church effective February 13, 2020. **Agreed.**

9. **Westminster UC, Orangeville** – Update on Renovation (for information) WOW Executive approved release of stage 2 funding.

10. **Training needs within Regional Council**

Besides the property group and pastoral charge supervisors, any other areas requiring training. Suggested: writing a living faith story/how to put together a community of faith profile.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 by Zoom Call - 9:30 AM

Worship by: Ann Harbridge      Land Acknowledgement: Judy Chalmers

Regrets: