

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

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Thursday, March 12, 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:** Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Kate Crawford, Ann Harbridge, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough

**Regrets:** Ross Carter, Sandy Loomis

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** Chair Ann Harbridge

Welcome to all. I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church for all business which properly comes before it. The bounds of this meeting will be the zoom call.

**Acknowledging the Land:** Judy Chalmers

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the peoples with whom the Upper Canada Treaties were signed and our responsibility as Treaty members.

We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudensaunee<sup>1</sup>, and Anishnabek<sup>2</sup> peoples. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

1. Haudensaunee – This name refers to the Iroquois Confederacy comprising of these Nations: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora.

2. Anishinaabeg/Anishinaabek/Anishnabek/Anishnaabeg – this name covers Ojibway, Odawa, Algonquin, Potawatomi, Nipissing, Mississaugas, Saulteau, etc....all the Algonkian/Ojibwa Nations

Note: Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation formerly "Cape Croker" is an Ojibway First Nations reserve on unceded territory in the Bruce Peninsula. Along with the Saugeen First Nation, they form the Chippewas of Saugeen Ojibway Territory.

**Opening Worship:** Ann Harbridge shared a reading relating to wilderness times and led the group in prayer.

**Opening Agreements:**

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** to receive representatives from David Mitten, Bob Collins-Wright, Barb Thomson, Patti McKay, from St. Luke's United Church, Cambridge as corresponding members to this meeting.

**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, February 13, 2020** and **Tuesday, February 25, 2020** as circulated, noting one correction to the February 13 minutes: under Pastoral Charge Supervisor, should be Emmanuel Waterloo.

St. Luke's UC, Cambridge was removed from the consent docket and dealt with separately. Representatives from St. Luke's joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m. to discuss the proposed property sale.

**St. Luke's UC, Cambridge – Sale of property**

David Mitten referred the commission to St. Luke's written report, noting that he feels there is only one purpose for the funds and that is to rebuild the congregations.

Questions were asked by the commission regarding financial viability. It was clarified that the St. Luke's council has confidence the community of faith is able to support a ministry personnel at three-quarter time.

John Neff noted that the disposition of assets from the sale of property of a church are always considered restricted funds, so there needs to be a plan of use. The community of faith needs to submit a proposal to the Covenant Commission for the use of the funds.

It was suggested by David Mitten that the funds will be used and should be used to support the new minister in whatever way to rebuild the congregation. He wondered if the new minister should be involved in strategizing. It was felt that was probably a council decision; the minister can guide but not decide.

The commission asked for a sense of the size of the congregation. There are approximately 87 members at the moment and it is a fairly senior congregation.

The St. Luke's representatives were thanked for speaking to the commission and then left the meeting.

The commission discussed in greater detail the community of faith profile and the viability of calling/appointing a minister at the hours requested, as submitted by St. Luke's. There was some concern expressed about the community of faith's viability. The recommendations noted in the financial worksheet submitted by St. Luke's were briefly discussed. It was also suggested that discussions with neighbouring congregations about shared ministry should be encouraged.

It was agreed both that St. Luke's should at least start a search and that a way forward has to be given to the community of faith.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive St. Luke's UC, Cambridge the Community of Faith Profile worksheets (Financial, Demographic, Real Property, Living Faith story) **affirm** their viability to call/appoint a minister up to Category C for 30 hours per week and request a liaison be appointed by the Human Resources Commission for their search. The Covenant Commission recommends the St. Luke's community of faith consider an appointment of up to two years for a minister to support them in looking at their future viability.

**MOTION** Thom McDonough / Arthur Hills

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **approves** the request of the Trustees of St. Luke's United Church (Seller), Cambridge to the sale of certain Real Property in the City of Cambridge, in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, the legal name of which is Part Lot 16, Plan 912, being part of Part 6, 67R-797, having a frontage of 120 feet and a depth of 276 feet, containing 33,120 square feet more or less, depicted and outlined in red on Schedule 'A' and known municipally as part of 1620 Franklin Boulevard, Cambridge, ON, to Saint Luke's Place (Buyer), as per the Agreement of Purchase and Sale dated March 5, 2020.

There will be no disposition of proceeds (restricted capital funds) received from the sale until a detailed plan has been approved by the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. **CARRIED**

**Business Arising**

1. Chatsworth-Massie Pastoral Charge – Massie UC: Michael Henkel pulpit supply; PC name change. John Neff spoke to this.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Minister) and John visited for worship, under the leadership of Michael Henkel, and the annual meeting following the service. At the end of the meeting time was afforded the Regional Council representatives. Shortly into the opening statements by Cheryl-Ann, a congregational member halted the conversation and subsequently walked out. Approximately 1/3 of the attendees walked out with him. The rest of the attendees and Michael Henkel stayed to hear what the Regional Council had to share.

It was clarified that, in order to follow United Church polity:

- a. Michael needed to make a choice to engage some training to regularize his work with Massie through the LLWL or DLM program.
- b. Michael needs to communicate his decision in a timely manner.

- c. The Regional Council will support Michael in his endeavors to regularize his work with Massie UC through an educational program being sensitive to his particular needs.
- d. Massie UC has until June 2020 to work with Michael and the Regional Council to regularize the relationship with, and engagement of services of, Michael to be in keeping with UCC polity after which the Regional Council will take next steps.

2. Upcoming Covenant of Mutual Commitment Services

Church	Date	Time	CC Rep	Notes
Centennial United Church, Stayner	May 3, 2020	10:30 am	John Neff?	
Thames Road-Elmville PC	April 26, 2020	2:00 pm	Mary Stewart	Along with covenant with minister and regional council
Kilsyth- Keady/North Derby Pastoral Charge	June 14, 2020	9:45 & 11:00 am	John Neff	
Villages Cooperative (incl. 5 CoFs and 2 RCs)	May 3, 2020	tbd	Kate Crawford will try to find rep from the area	ARW & WOW CoFs, John will work with Lynne Allin (ARW) to create liturgy.
Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont	June 7	10:30 am	Norm Eygenraam	(their Anniversary)

3. Commission Budget update

- a. No new information to report

4. Technology HUB test

Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont has agreed to be a test site. John will work with them and St. Paul’s UC, Midland. Time frame to be determined.

**Consent Docket**

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

- a. Anne Gajerski-Cauley to Drayton United Church June 1 – August 31, 2020 during minister’s sabbatical.
- b. Anne Gajerski-Cauley to Moorefield United Church June 1 – August 31, 2020 during pastoral charge supervisor’s sabbatical.
- c. Sue Campbell to Elora-Bethany Pastoral Charge (Elora UC and Bethany UC) from April 13 – July 5, 2020 during minister’s sabbatical.
- d. Sheryl Spencer to Alma United Church April 13 – July 5, 2020 during pastoral charge supervisor’s sabbatical.
- e. Cathy Larmond to Londesborough United Church for their annual meeting on February 23, 2020. Pastoral charge supervisor, Randy Banks, could not make the meeting.
- f. Keith Reynolds to Parkview United Church, Stratford beginning July 1, 2020. Minister is retiring.

## 2. Documents

- a. Receive for information from
  - i. Creemore-New Lowell Pastoral Charge (St. John's UC, Creemore; New Lowell UC) 2019 Annual Report
  - ii. Erin United Church 2019 Annual Report
  - iii. Exeter United Church 2019 Annual Report
  - iv. First United Church, Owen Sound 2019 Annual Report (plus cover letter)
  - v. Knox UC, Ayr 2019 Annual Report (plus additional financials)
  - vi. Emmanuel UC, Waterloo 2019 Annual Report
  - vii. Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont 2019 Annual Report and 2020 revised constitution
  - viii. Georgian Shores UC, Owen Sound 2019 Annual Report

Arthur Hills noted the illegibility of some the financial documents. John Neff will encourage communities of faith to get their documents scanned or put multiple documents into one document.

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

### **Report from Executive – Norm Eygenraam**

The Executive will be having a discussion in April regarding the various Investment bodies/funds in WOWRC and how that will be moving forward.

Norm volunteered to stay on a little longer as the Covenant Commission representative to Executive for continuity of terms.

It was noted that the Executive granted the Mission and Discipleship Commission authority over the unspent balance made available for Mission Support Grants for mission and ministry throughout the regional council.

Kate Crawford inquired about the status of a proposal submitted to Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at the May 2019 meeting. It was to be shared with other regional councils. Norm will raise the question with the Executive.

Two Regional Council Open house meetings (90 minutes) have been arranged for those in attendance to ask questions, April 1 & April 2.

### **Report from Staff Support - John Neff**

1. Held two pastoral charge supervisor trainings with a total attendance of 12 (Including one from HFRC). There are now 44 pastoral charge supervisors with 22 having gone through the training.
  - a. Looking for Pastoral Charge Supervisor resource pool people to arrange pastoral charge supervisors for communities of faith needing one with a mandate to:

- i. Keep a current list of pastoral charge supervisors
    - 1. Who is willing to serve
    - 2. Who is trained
  - ii. Find pastoral charge supervisors for communities of faith for:
    - 1. vacancy
    - 2. Students; admittands
    - 3. Sabbaticals
    - 4. Sick leave or LTD
    - 5. Filling in for a PCS who is not able to make a meeting
  - iii. Keep a master list of who is serving where, start and end date, and why
  - iv. Alert Minister for Congregational Support and Mission about needed training
  - v. Keep the Covenant Commission informed bring PCS appointments to the covenant commission  
Also keep DB informed and she keeps Cov informed. That kind of communication would still happen. Working on that make sure informed back and forth.
2. Held Collaboration discussions.  
Elora – first meeting with 8 churches represented and 29 in attendance. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- a. Wingham – 35 churches invited; rescheduled.
3. Organizing a Property Resource Pool with a mandate to:
- a. Advise communities of faith (CoFs) on property related matters
  - b. Work with CoFs who are disbanding or amalgamating on the disposal of surplus property (buildings)
  - c. Oversee the care of (heat, insurance) and sale of property from congregations that have disbanded and the property is left to the regional council to take action upon
  - d. Establish a list of real estate brokers, lawyers to work with on property matters in conjunction with communities of faith
  - e. Keep the Covenant Commission informed and bring before the covenant commission the necessary approvals
- John continues to work on organizing a property resource pool. Four out of five people he approached for this work have declined.
4. Technology HUB – proposal submitted to Executive Minister and Regional Council President

### **New Business**

- 1. Trustees for Waverley UC  
**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Margaret Bakker  
that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council appoint Arthur Hills, Ann Harbridge, and Thom McDonough as trustees of Waverley United Church. **CARRIED**

2. General Councils HUB technology initiative
  - a. Name for this support ministry – rather than HUB
    - i. PIHM – Partners in Hub Ministry?
    - ii. PWS = Partners in Worship Service. This one option that came out of our visit to Thunder Bay, offered by one of the satellite users, was.
    - iii. PEWS – Partners Engaging Worship Services
    - iv. PEM – Partners Engaging Ministry  
PaWS – partners in worship services

Ann Harbridge suggested the commission give the name some thought, with any suggestions to be sent to John Neff for the next meeting.

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

Worship by: Kate Crawford

Regrets:

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge

Adjourned 11:38