

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

Thursday, April 23, 2020, 9:00 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
Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission (ARWRC & HFRC)

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

Regrets: Ross Carter, Thom McDonough

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Ann Harbridge welcomed all and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for all business that comes before it.

Acknowledging the Land: Ann Harbridge

I live in the southwest corner of Simcoe County, which is on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We are dedicated to honouring the Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Metis and Inuit people.

Opening Worship: Using a Singing Bowl; an ancient way of calling us into prayer, Kate Crawford opened the meeting with prayer.

Opening Agreements

Corresponding members

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to receive representative Janet MacDonald from Wesley United Church, Kincardine and Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support and Mission for Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils, as corresponding members to this meeting.

Approval of Agenda

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

It was agreed the sale of Wesley United Church, Kincardine would be addressed first.

Question was asked as to why the sale price was significantly lower than the asking price (\$150,000) and the price received for the sale of Underwood United Church. Janet MacDonald

noted that some differences between the two buildings. Wesley is smaller than Underwood, no potable water, no septic field (has a holding tank), no full basement and often water in the basement.

MOTION Arthur Hills / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the sale of Wesley United Church, 4253 Highway 21, Municipality of Kincardine, for \$85,000 and restricts the funds until a proposal of the disbursement of funds is received. **CARRIED**

Janet MacDonald then left the meeting.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** to approve the minutes of **Thursday, April 9, 2020** and **Thursday, April 16, 2020** as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Massie

- a. Another letter written to Executive Secretary, Nora Sanders by a person who was not in attendance at either of the meetings held with Massie.
- b. Suggest Covenant Commission offer to meet with the Massie Board. Explain what options were offered and have heard nothing from church or Michael Henkel. Include pastoral charge supervisor – Marg Krauter.
- c. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa is keeping General Council Office informed.

No action to be taken by the commission at this point. John Neff will keep the commission informed. It was noted also that it is essential that process should be followed ie: if a review is called, even if it is felt it will not be helpful.

Consent Docket

1. Documents

- a. Nottawa-Rob Roy Pastoral Charge – Living faith Story and agrees with the recommendation that Nottawa – Rob Roy pastoral charge is viable to call/appoint a minister up to category A for 20 hours per week.
- b. Badjeros – the community of faith profile (Cover Page, Financial, Demographics, Real Property, Living Faith Story) and the financial report from Badjeros UC, Grey Dufferin Pastoral Charge and agrees with the recommendation that Grey Dufferin pastoral charge (Badjeros UC) is viable to call/appoint a minister up to category A for 20 hours per week

Note: They will be extending a provisional call to student Rebekah Duncan along with Nottawa/Rob Roy PC making the position full time.

There was brief discussion regarding Badjeros' financials, with agreement to accept the recommendation.

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

New Business

1. Covid-19 Update – Motions to agree with criteria.

- a. **Recent documents:** Temporary amendments (2) pastoral relations piece received for information.
- b. **United Church Pandemic Response Bridging Loans**
 - Covenant Commission is required to determine criteria for approving applications
 - Consideration to be based on need and viability
 - Need to define how need and viability will be measured – see Approval process for UCC Loan
 - Discuss process for reviewing applications
 - Compare T3010 to all requests

CEBA Loan: Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan is once more available to communities of faith. The Covenant Commission's motion at the meeting of April 9, 2020, gave pre-approval to communities of faith. Following approval of that motion, it was then communicated that communities of faith were not eligible, but that has changed.

Communities of faith are required to inform the commission that they have applied. Thus far one community of faith has provided notice. It was agreed that a listing of those who have applied for the CEBA loan should be recorded in the Covenant Commission minutes. John Neff has created a tracking document and will make sure it is on the next meeting agenda.

Review of United Church Pandemic Response Bridging Loan form:

John Neff will look up the T3010 requested in the form when an application is received. This step can be reviewed should the number of applications become overwhelming.

Also priority is to be given to those not able to access CEBA. The motion regarding this was already approved at the commission's April 9, 2020 meeting.

Ann Harbridge recommended that a question be added to the form that asks communities of what they are doing to maintain visibility and connecting in their community of faith during this time. Not to imply that they have to be doing virtual church every Sunday, or at all; but to ask what is being done to maintain connections. The commission agreed with the suggestion. The answer is not required to be a lengthy narrative. Question to be added to the *Evaluation* section of the form.

In a response to a question raised by John Neff, the commission agreed that it would not be necessary to meet with all applicants. Kate Crawford noted that, as the government of Canada has demonstrated alacrity, the commission needs to do the same. It is important to look at

things in an expedient manner. If there are any concerns, then the community of faith can be invited to come and talk to the commission.

John Neff will send the loan form to the community of faith when GCO advises someone has applied. It was agreed that application forms received by Friday will be addressed at the next week's Thursday meeting.

c. Request for Changes in Staffing

- Discuss approval process and relationship with Human Resources Commission.
- See *Request to Make Staff Changes due to Pandemic*

John Neff referenced the *Request to Make Staff Changes due to Pandemic* form. The Human Resources (HR) Commission is asking for help from the Covenant Commission in determining viability and need should a church ask to reduce hours/lay off ministry personnel. Covenant Commission will do a quick assessment and inform the HR Commission of their recommendation. The HR Commission makes the final decision.

d. Appoint Pastoral Charge Supervisors

In the case of a provisional call, option to appoint the candidate as pastoral charge supervisor. The candidates will not be able to be ordained during the pandemic, but GCO has advised they will be able to fully function as ministry personnel. Note: they are being appointed the pastoral charge supervisor for the community of faith. The Covenant Commission does not have the right to waive a requirement when related to *The Manual*. It was agreed no motion was required at this time. Will be brought forward in consent docket.

- In the case of a lay off, there will be a need to appoint a pastoral charge supervisor.

2. Sale of Wesley United Church, Municipality of Kincardine – dealt with above.

3. Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) – Ministry Fund Investors

MOTION Sandy Loomis / Norm Eygenraam

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council authorize a loan of up to 5% of the funds which the community of faith has invested in the *Ministry Fund Investors* of the Toronto United Church Council. (These would include St. John's, Creemore - \$2,500; Central Westside, Owen Sound - \$6,070; and Georgian Shores, Owen Sound - \$10,000.)

Motion carried. One abstention (Judy Chalmers).

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 30, 2020 by Zoom Call - 9:00 AM

Worship by: Kate Crawford

Regrets:

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge