

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

Thursday, April 30, 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

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

Regrets: Sandy Loomis

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: The Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus that Kate Crawford be acting chair until Ann Harbridge is able to join the meeting.

Acknowledging the Land: read by John Neff

Ann Harbridge lives 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: Kate Crawford led a short meditation using the singing bowl.

Opening Agreements:

Kate Crawford welcomed Bernard Brunner from Meaford United Church.

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** to receive representative Bernard Brunner from Meaford United Church as corresponding member 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, April 23, 2020** as circulated.

Ann Harbridge joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m. Kate Crawford surrendered the chair.

Business Arising

1. Massie

- a. For information: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa has sent an email to Massie United Church governing body and Michael Henkel encouraging the community of faith to engage the regional council to help regularize Michael's time and laid out the options for Michael again. John will offer an invitation to meet on behalf of the Covenant Commission.

2. Loan Criteria – suggestion to require Living Faith Story *if available*.

The Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus to add the wording “if available” to the WOW regional council's *United Church Pandemic Response Bridging Loan* application, under “Required Information”.

John Neff asked for direction regarding CEBA (Canadian Emergency Business Account) loan information. The CEBA loan is once again not available to churches. Should the information remain in the *Approval Process for Covid-19 Related Loans and Subsidies* document posted on the website or should it be removed?

The Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus that information regarding the CEBA (Canadian Emergency Business Account) loan be removed from the WOW Regional Council website.

John Neff will prepare a second copy of the *Approval Process for Covid-19 Related Loans and Subsidies* document including the CEBA loan reference to have on hand should the loan be made available again.

John Neff also suggested that detailed information/explanation of any pandemic related resources not under the WOW regional council authority or control be removed. However, links to information/resources/websites to be provided. The Covenant Commission **agreed** by consensus to this approach.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors – no appointments for approval

John Neff advised that he will be in communication with pastoral charge liaisons regarding the appointment of candidates as pastoral charge supervisors (as approved at the commission meeting of April 23). This information will also be communicated in the newsletter and on the website. A list of WOW regional council candidates will be provided to the commission for their next meeting on May 7.

2. Documents – no documents for presentation/approval

New Business

1. Meaford United Church – Loan Application (**Stated Hour - 9:15 am**)

Bernard Brunner, representative from Meaford United Church, joined the meeting at the stated hour. He spoke to the loan application noting that the application is for \$75,000 to fix

beams and trusses in the roof, as recommended by a structural engineer. The fundraising committee struck a year ago has raised approximately \$110,000 to date. Total cost of the project is \$201,000. Due to the pandemic crisis, plans for spring fundraising concerts have been put on hold.

The commission expressed appreciation for the well presented clarity of the material submitted.

Questions raised about the deficit indicated in the budget sheet submitted and if the community of faith anticipates any difficulty in repaying the loan. Bernard Brunner noted Meaford has begun work on preparing a community of faith profile and will be examining all aspects of their ministry, including a close look at their financial situation. He added that Meaford recently received a bequest of \$200,000 and has approximately \$300,000 held in restricted funds. Also noted that Meaford is a vibrant faith community with a real presence in the wider community.

Bernard Brunner expressed his thanks to the commission and left the meeting.

Comments: the community of faith seems to have no difficulty in raising funds through fundraising activities and with the bequest and restricted funds, this is basically a secured loan.

MOTION Norm Eygenraam / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the *Application for Capital Loan for Pastoral Charge or Congregation* for Meaford United Church in the amount of \$75,000.00 for roof infrastructure repair, with a loan repayment period term of 10 years. **CARRIED**

2. Walters Falls UC – Listing of building

MOTION Norm Eygenraam / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees with the recommendation of the Trustees of Walters Falls United Church to list the property at 167 Victoria Street, Walters Falls, ON NOH 2H0 with Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited for \$249,000.00 at 5% commission. **CARRIED**

Hearing no other business, Ann Harbridge concluded the meeting.

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

Worship by: Kate Crawford

Regrets:

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge