



WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MINUTES – 2020

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Executive
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Roster: Gary Clark (President), Rod Coates (Secretary), Brent Caslick (Treasurer), Heather Leffler (Past Chair), Jessica Cottrell, Heather Davies, Gord Dunbar, Joyce Johnston, Margaret Krauter, Mark Laird, Tim Reaburn, Peg Schieck, Joyce Ward, Micol Cottrell (Human Resources Commission), Deanne Dickson (Mission & Discipleship Commission), Norm Eygenraam (Covenant Commission)

Staff Support: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Minister), Sue Duliban (Executive Assistant)

Present: Gary Clark, Rod Coates, Jessica Cottrell, Micol Cottrell, Heather Davies, Sue Duliban, Gord Dunbar, Norm Eygenraam, Margaret Krauter, Heather Leffler, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Joyce Ward

Regrets: Brent Caslick, Mark Laird, Tim Reaburn

The Executive of the WOW Regional Council Executive was called to meet via ZOOM teleconference on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Gary Clark called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Welcome and Constitution of Meeting

Gary Clark declared the meeting constituted in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority invested in him by the first meeting of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

Acknowledging the Land

Gary Clark said that in our “countdown to Lent”, a time of personal and corporate reflection, we remember that we have not always dealt properly with our indigenous brothers and sisters. Gary stated that our meeting was on traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, the Neutral Nation and more recently the Mississaugas of New Credit, and that we commit ourselves to being part of a healing process as we seek justice and equality for all in this land.

Worship

Gary Clark read the scripture passage Luke 5:1-11. [Jesus calling his first disciples, standing by the shore of the lake as they fished.] Each person commented on a word or phrase which stood out for them from the scripture passage.

Consent Docket

Gary Clark asked if there were any questions or concerns about the consent docket items. A few points of clarification were raised, after which Gary Clark declared the consent docket approved by consensus.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the November 21/22, 2019 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Confirmation of January 21, 2020 email vote

MOVED: Tim Reaburn / Micol Cottrell

That the Year 1 Funding report submitted by Westminster United Church, Orangeville be received from Westminster United Church, Orangeville and that the request for Stage 2 of the funding from the New Ministry Development and Leadership (NMDL) Fund of the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation be recommended for approval at the January 29, 2020 meeting of the NMDL Fund. Agreed

MOVED: Tim Reaburn / Micol Cottrell

That Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive accept the draft, revised position description for the Administrative Assistant, Mission and Hospitality, and direct the Executive Minister to submit to the General Council Office for salary schedule category review. Agreed

(Note: Record of email vote meets the 80% threshold of consent.)

C. Receive correspondence of

1. Native Peoples Retreat Funding Request

D. Appointments

1. Appoints Orville James, Russell Rogers and Jane Sullivan to the Human Resources Commission

E. Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Omnibus motion February 19, 2020

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Executive take the following action:

a) Bimini United Church Camp (Camp Bimini)

....approve Bimini United Church Camp 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Bert Clifford

Bob Doupe

Harry Hengeveld

Dannielle McLagan

Donna Melanson

Jessica Melanson

Kathy Poirier

Jim Pratt

Marion Ready

Mary Taylor
Golda Wilson
Blake Wood

This is based on the draft Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of December 2, 2019, the 2019 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada incorporated ministries policy.

b) Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council

....approve Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Greg Case
Don Davidson
Wayne Dawson
Bruce Dickson
Don Douglas
Bob Elliott
Mary Feldskov
John Fraser
Arthur Hills
Gregg King
Nancy Lennox
Cindy Lunau

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of May 7, 2019, the 2019 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada incorporated ministries policy.

Business Arising

1. Decision making model (email votes)

Rod Coates explained that the last email vote (included in the consent docket) met the 80% consensus threshold, but that as an Executive we had had varied practice with respect to email vote movers & seconders, and not defined whether we expected consensus in this practice. Executive members noted that having a mover and seconder “gets the item on the radar screen”, and that if any email vote did not appear to reach consensus we would need to discuss it separately. Gary Clark suggested that we follow the process outlined in The Manual & asked Cheryl-Ann to follow up regarding any process issues.

2. Corporation Update

a) Membership

Referencing the November 21/22, 2019 Regional Council Executive minutes, Cheryl-Ann noted that there was a comment about diversity of representation on those boards whose membership the Executive approves. She said that as an Executive we have no control over the selection of the representation with respect to diversity. Gord Dunbar

noted that board membership is normally defined by corporation bylaws and diversity is typically one of the criteria.

b) PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation)

Cheryl-Ann said that we are in partnership with Northern Waters regarding the work done by the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC), which managed its assets for the benefit of the ministry. She said that what matters to us is the Northern Waters component of the PTCC assets: our Regional Council approves requests for grants from the PTCC funds and then forwards those requests to the Corporation for release. Cheryl-Ann said that some key questions are 1) how will we make it known that PTCC funds are available, 2) how will the available funds be allocated, and 3) how should the net revenue be allocated - e.g., apply to region or reinvest – for region work, or congregational development? She said that decisions need to be made, but not necessarily today.

Gord Dunbar suggested we make a dedicated decision later but remain at status quo for the present. Cheryl-Ann suggested that we all need time to digest the PTCC overview document, then have a dedicated “money meeting” to address the implications of the fund assets.

(Note: Additional follow-up on this item is included in Agenda Item #8).

c) TUCC (Toronto United Church Council)

Cheryl-Ann said that the issues involving the TUCC (Toronto United Church Council) are much simpler than those of PTCC. She said that TUCC is currently holding properties for Walter’s Falls and Temple Hill, and she suggested that it might be easier to appoint a lawyer to deal with the property matters which the Covenant Commission would then address. It was agreed that Cheryl-Ann would seek out a lawyer to progress the property transaction issues, after which it would be referred to the Covenant Commission for decision.

3. Terms of office: Executive and Commissioners (re: elections at May 2020 meeting)

Sue Duliban noted that only three persons have defined terms of office in accordance with their appointment at the 2019 regional council annual meeting - Brent Caslick, Marg Krauter, & Heather Leffler. Joyce Ward & Gord Dunbar both stated a preference for their positions to end at the rise of the 2020 annual meeting.

Cheryl-Ann asked that we distribute a roster indicating when the Executive members would like to retire, as well as commission members.

4. Financial Update

a) Year end financials

Cheryl-Ann provided an overview of the financial report details, the essence of which is that we ended the 2019 fiscal year with a modest surplus.

b) Short Term Investment – Proposal 2

It was proposed the Regional Council Executive authorize the President, Treasurer and Executive Minister to explore short-term investment options for reserve funds ensuring a reserve of not less than \$100,000 remains in the account.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

c) Mission Support Unspent Funds - Proposal 3

Cheryl-Ann said the Mission & Discipleship (M&D) Commission was permitted to spend up to \$135,000, of which only \$123,500 has been allocated since there were insufficient endorsed applications to spend the entire amount. She said that the Executive needs to authorize the M&D Commission to spend the remaining funds for mission and ministry.

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

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

d) Waterloo Legacy Funds

Marg Krauter suggested that legacy money issues could be discussed at the “money meeting”. Cheryl-Ann suggested that the outstanding issue of the St. James Rosemount legacy fund be sent to her and Brent Caslick as an application for review.

Another legacy issue is that the Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM) allocated funds were left outstanding by Waterloo Presbytery; the options were to have the funds held by the region or forwarded to ECM. It was proposed that the full amount of the ECM allocated funds be forwarded to the ECM.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

5. Student funds

Cheryl-Ann asked for an update regarding the student funding discussed at the November 21/22 meeting, which Gary Clark briefly summarized. Cheryl-Ann questioned whether the funding approved at that meeting were processed and it was determined that no funds had been processed; Cheryl-Ann said she would address this. It was agreed that the former members of the Bruce & Waterloo presbytery student funds should meet to discuss and develop recommendations for a new student funding process.

6. Learning Fund grants

Cheryl-Ann said the matter of Learning Fund grants was part of the November 21/22 meeting agenda, and some questions have arisen regarding a process for how to apply. The Executive revisited the Gord Dunbar proposal from the November meeting regarding limits and amounts for grant applications. Heather Leffler & Joyce Ward offered to review other regional council procedures and develop a proposal for Western Ontario Waterways. Gary Clark summarized the proposal by saying grants would be approved for up to ½ the cost of the event, to a maximum of to \$500, for the pending August 2020 Rendez-Vous event being held in Calgary.

New Business

1. Native Peoples Retreat Funding Request

Cheryl-Ann said the Native Peoples Retreat 2020 is an ongoing annual event previously supported by Hamilton Conference, and that each of the three regions is being asked to contribute \$2,000 towards the event, funded from its reserves.

Gary Clark declared this request approved by consensus.

2. Executive Minister Accountability Report – February 2020 (for information)

Cheryl-Ann provided an accountability report outlining many of her activities and staff interactions for 2019.

It was agreed that we receive this accountability report for information.

Gary Clark declared this report approved by consensus and received with thanks.

3. Minister, Social Justice Position – Proposal 1

Marg Krauter explained that the Staff Support Committee first met last week and arising from that meeting was a proposal that there be a ½ time position for the Minister, Social Justice. The Staff Support Committee proposes that the Executive of the Regional Council:

- 1) Authorize the staffing of the .5 FTE vacancy in the position of the Minister, Social Justice as a contract position from April 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020;
- 2) Authorize the former interview team for this position (Antler River Watershed Regional Council: John Brown; Horseshoe Falls Regional Council: Robert Lawson; and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council: John Smith along with Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann) to reconvene to review the previous short-list and to invite a minimum of two of the former applicants to another interview; and
- 3) If the interview team has no applicant to recommend following that, authorize the interview team to conduct a search to fill the position.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

4. Appointments - Agenda and Business Chair; Worship leader(s), Parliamentarian, Secretary for May 2020 meeting

Gord Dunbar said that he had volunteered to deal with hospitality for the May regional council meeting at Port Elgin. Cheryl-Ann said that the next planning meeting would be occurring this Friday morning (February 21), and that Gord should be part of this.

Gary Clark said the chairs of the three regions' Agenda & Business committees would be integrating their discussions and decisions. Gary said he has asked Elise Feltrin to act as worship leader, that Tim Reaburn has offered to be the parliamentarian and Rod Coates the secretary, for the meeting. Gary said that there would be joint worship with involvement from all three regions and that he has been in contact with his counterparts in the other regions. After reviewing several names to fill various agenda roles at the meeting, follow-up will occur with those named. Cheryl-Ann spoke briefly about General Council proposals and how they might be addressed at the upcoming regional council meeting.

5. April 1 & 2 meetings

Cheryl-Ann noted feedback that people in the regions do not feel connected to the new systems and processes. Two open house meetings (90 minutes) have been arranged for those in attendance to ask questions; Cheryl-Ann said it would be helpful if members of the Executive and commissions attend both meetings. It is expected that Durham would serve as one venue and Guelph as the second.

6. Confirm Fall 2020 Regional Council Meeting Date - Nov 7 (first choice) or Oct 17 (second choice), and Location

Gord Dunbar said that he had done some preliminary work, but that no venue had been selected, for the fall 2020 regional council meeting. He said that more work is required to sort out details, and that the fall meeting date will be available and advertised at the May 2020 regional council meeting.

7. Spring 2021 Meeting Date and Location

Gary Clark stated a preference for a 2-day gathering to allow for both education and ordination. He clarified that this meeting will be only for Western Ontario Waterways, and not a joint meeting of the three regions. The first choice of dates is the May 14-16 weekend (as the last weekend of May is taken by Antler River Watershed); with possibilities for either Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday meetings.

Cheryl-Ann said that she had a meeting with Edge folks last week and noted that it would be helpful to have Edge at an Executive meeting to explain the programs and support they can offer to congregations. She suggested the 3rd Wednesday of June (17th) at Mount Forest as a possible date.

8. Special Money Meeting

After mulling over several date options, it was agreed that Sue Duliban will issue a Doodle poll to select the best date for all involved.

Closing

The agenda having been completed and with no additional business to discuss, Gary Clark declared the meeting closed at 1 PM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Regional Council executive, April 15, 2020. Tentatively at Drayton, TBC with Mark Laird