

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

Thursday, May 7, 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, Kate Crawford, Arthur Hills, Ann Harbridge, Thom McDonough

Regrets: Norm Eygenraam, Sandy Loomis

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

Opening Agreements:

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** on the agenda with the addition of two items under New Business: One Drive and frequency of meetings.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** to approve the minutes of April 30, 2020 as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Massie

a. John Neff sent an email invitation to Massie to meet, on behalf of the Covenant Commission.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

- a. Gail Fricker (Candidate and provisional call) to Knox UC, Ayr beginning June 1, 2020

MOTION Kate Crawford / Arthur Hills

In recognition of the current circumstances leading to a delay in ordination, the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council joyously appoints Gail Fricker as pastoral charge supervisor to Knox United Church, Ayr beginning June 1, 2020. **CARRIED**

- b. Rebekah Duncan (Candidate and working on provisional call) to Grey Dufferin Pastoral Charge (Badjeros UC) and Nottawa Rob Roy pastoral charge

MOTION Thom McDonough / Judy Chalmers

In recognition of the current circumstances leading to a delay in ordination, the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council joyously appoints Rebekah Duncan as pastoral charge supervisor to Grey Dufferin Pastoral Charge (Badjeros United Church) and Nottawa Rob Roy Pastoral Charge, beginning June 1, 2020, pending receipt of required documentation. **CARRIED**

2. Documents

- a. Trinity United Church, Kitchener – Constitution

Concern raised that Section 10-1 of Trinity, Kitchener's constitution indicates two people are required to call board meetings. *The Manual* states that a minister can call a board meeting.

Question raised regarding whether Chair of Trustees and Chair of M&P Committee should be on the board. *The Manual* does not stipulate that those two positions need to be on a board. Noted that Chair of Trustees and Chair of M&P Committee are corresponding members of Trinity, Kitchener's board and as long the information flow is there, the structure is satisfactory.

Trinity United, Kitchener's constitution was accepted by the Covenant Commission with the stipulation that Section 10-1 re: calling a board meeting, should be changed to be in keeping with *The Manual*.

- b. Trinity UC, Listowel & Atwood UC – Collaboration Agreement

- c. Zion UC, New Hamburg – Self Assessment (for information)

- d. St. Andrew's UC, Bayfield – Community of faith profile (Living Faith Story, Demographics, Financial Viability, Real Property, Manse) received for information

Noted St. Andrew's, Bayfield does not have a manse – therefore the manse information form did not need to be submitted (an empty form was included).

Question raised regarding sale of manse funds; it was indicated in the submission that these funds are unrestricted. Manse funds are usually restricted. John Neff will follow-up with St. Andrew's via email and advise that normally the sale of manse funds are declared restricted and that should be the case here, unless St. Andrew's can demonstrate that there is some reason why the funds are unrestricted.

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

New Business

1. Loan applications update.

John Neff referred the Commission to the tracking spreadsheet. Six communities of faith, that he knows of, have applied for the Canadian Emergency Business Account loan (CEBA). Communities of faith are advised to hold onto any loan funds received until the process to return the money is known, or in case the government permits churches to receive this loan. John added that the tracking is not about approval or permissions, but so that the Covenant Commission can provide support and ensure things are being done correctly.

It was agreed that it is a good time to send out a moral boosting letter that also asks communities of faith to communicate what loans/grants they have applied for. Ann Harbridge will craft the letter. Agreed that it should be sent in a separate email blast (not as part of the regional council newsletter) and addressed to clergy, governing boards/bodies and lay representatives.

2. Reflection on how things have gone with the commission over the last year and Exec rep to report in June meeting to the Executive. (What has worked, challenges, blessings, priorities, etc)

Commission members to bring forward to their next meeting any points to include.

3. One Drive

General Council Office is using Microsoft platform for everything. Regional council staff are discussing/learning about using OneDrive and migrating files from dropbox to OneDrive. John Neff is testing the system; trying to give the commission access to all documentation through OneDrive. Commission members should email John if there are difficulties encountered accessing OneDrive.

4. Frequency of meetings

Agreed to return to monthly meetings (second Thursday of the month), while keeping the weekly date/time previously scheduled available for potential emerging business.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2020 by Zoom Call - 9:00 AM

Worship by: Kate Crawford

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge