

Executive
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming
Wednesday, May 20, 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: Brent Caslick, Gary Clark, Rod Coates, Jessica Cottrell, Micol Cottrell, Heather Davies, Deanne Dickson, Sue Duliban, Norm Eygenraam, Margaret Krauter, Mark Laird, Heather Leffler, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Joyce Ward

The Executive of the WOW Regional Council Executive was called to meet via ZOOM teleconference on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Gary Clark called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

Welcome and Constitution of the 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.

Opening Worship & Check-in

Gary Clark read briefly from writings of Hildegard of Bingen who, in reply to a monk from Belgium, wrote “God works where God wills, and God is the wind pushing you as a feather. Gary asked for reflections on the statement, “In the past week do you feel you have been pushed or do you feel like you have had more control in your life?” Common responses were:

- Many expressions of being blown like a feather.
- Falling into a rhythm of these new times and what has changed.
- Appreciating and experiencing the outdoors more.
- Still experiencing feelings of loss of communication and loneliness due to isolation.

Jessica Cottrell closed this reflection session with a prayer.

Consent Docket

Cheryl-Ann proposed postponing some of the agenda items to the next meeting.

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as amended.
2. That the minutes of the April 15, 2020 and April 28, 2020 meetings be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. To receive the correspondence and address it as it arises in the agenda

1. Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) Letter of invitation to name two representatives to TUCC for 2020/2021 and to attend the annual meeting on June 4.

C. Actions

1. Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) Board of Directors
 - a. That the Executive name two Director nominees without inviting expressions of interest.
 - b. That Margaret Krauter and/or Brent Caslick be invited to fulfill those roles.

Gary Clark declared the amended consent docket approved by consensus.

Business Arising

1. Proposal #5 – Oct 16-17 Regional Council Meeting

Cheryl-Ann said that it is becoming clear that the opportunity to meet in October is increasingly unlikely. She said that congregations are now getting more tech savvy given the current quarantine situation and that, having now met with Stephen Fetter, has developed ideas about conducting shorter teleconference meetings over a period of 2 to 3 days – e.g., 2-hour sessions.

Several comments were offered that we need to have opportunity for participants to do tech training, and also ensure that adequate rehearsals and preparations are done.

Cheryl-Ann said that if we have sufficient people, we could also do the Celebration of Ministry at that time and offer it to our congregations as a worship service. She said that Western Ontario Waterways ministry candidates have been contacted and are accepting of this possibility.

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

- 1) Decide to hold the fall 2020 meeting online; at some time during the week of October 13-18.
- 2) Cancel any reservation for space to enable the provider to book other events;
- 3) Set a date for the meeting (recommendation from Stephen Fetter is to extend over a few days, such as for example hosting two hour sessions throughout that week plus the celebration of retirees and new ministries); at some time during the week of October 13-18.
- 4) Direct the President, Executive Minister and Executive Assistant to present a plan at the June meeting of the Executive that includes a potential date for a celebration of ministry service provided provincial and public health guidelines permit.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

2. Proposal #1 – Incorporated Ministries

Cheryl-Ann said that incorporated ministries can only apply for funding up to the limits authorized by the Regional Council, noting that the previous funding limit for London Conference was \$100,000.

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

- 1) Set the authorized borrowing limit for incorporated ministries at \$100,000; and
- 2) Agree that any application for the United Church of Canada Pandemic Response Bridging Loan from an incorporated ministry will be:
 - a) Reviewed by the Covenant Commission for completeness so that it meets the same standards as applications by a congregation; and

- b) Referred to the Executive for decision-making in light of the Executive's responsibility for oversight.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

3. Proposal #4 – Native People's Retreat

Cheryl-Ann said the Executive had previously authorized \$2,000 from regional council unrestricted reserve funds to support the Native People's Retreat. The Retreat has happened annually at Five Oaks for several decades. This year, the retreat has been cancelled. The regional council funds were transferred in advance of cancellation.

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

Direct the Executive Minister to advise the hosts of the Native People's Retreat that the funds authorized for 2020 (\$2,000 from regional council unrestricted reserve funds) to support the Native People's Retreat are to be held for use for this event in 2021.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

4. Proposal #6 - Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) Board of Directors

Cheryl-Ann said this matter arose from a lengthy discussion she had had with Brent Caslick.

PTCC

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

- 1) Name Betty Morrison and Mary Ellen Parson as Western Ontario Waterways regional council's members to the corporation for the June 7th Annual Meeting of the corporation.
- 2) Present Brent Caslick and Margaret Krauter as Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council nominees to the Board of Directors at the June 7th Annual Meeting of the corporation.
- 3) Direct the Board of Directors to deposit the remaining balance of the 2018 and the 2019 net revenue grants (approx. \$110,000) to the principal in the Western Ontario Waterways account thereby increasing the fund available to support the development of communities of faith.
- 4) Request a meeting with members of the Board of Directors and members of the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council in the fall of 2020 to clarify the New Ministries and Leadership Development Fund.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

Cheryl-Ann noted that two properties (Walter's Falls and Waverly United) are being managed by TUCC, an arrangement that was established prior to transition. This motion enables WOW to assume responsibility for managing these properties.

TUCC

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

- 1) Name David Shearman and Felicia Urbanski as the members of the corporation from Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for the June 4th Annual Meeting of the corporation.
- 2) Name Mary Lou Fletcher as legal counsel for Western Ontario Waterways property managed by Toronto United Church Council.
- 3) Direct Ms. Fletcher and the Executive Minister to draft an agreement with TUCC to be presented to the Executive for approval.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

- 1) Determine the balance in the account as of February 28, 2020 (month-end following the Executive's decision to transfer the fund);
- 2) Forward the balance (\$61,160) immediately from the regional council operating account and replace as soon as GIC's in investment account come due.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

Olivet Fund

Cheryl-Ann noted it seemed patronizing to hold monies for congregations, but the Olivet Trust was retained by Waterloo Presbytery with the income to be transferred on a yearly basis equally to Calvary Memorial United Church, Kitchen and St. James Rosemont United Church, Kitchen for a period of no less than 10 years. In light of this action by a court of the church, the regional council has limited options. It was the practice of Waterloo Presbytery to restrict fund use for five years but the foregoing indicates ten years.

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

- 1) Write St. James Rosemont indicating that, while the Executive understands the nature of their request we are limited by the resolution of Waterloo Presbytery.
- 2) Invite St. James-Rosemont to make application to the principal of the fund for vital mission as it undertakes these endeavours.
- 3) Forward interest earnings as at December 31, 2019 immediately from the regional council operating account to Calvary United Church and St. James Rosemont (\$52,514 divided by two) and repay the operating account when GIC's come due in 2020.
- 4) Advise the congregations annually of interest earned following the annual audit and forward these monies to them.
- 5) Entrust the Covenant Commission to receive and approve applications for the principal and encourage the Covenant Commission to define vital ministry broadly.
- 6) Advise both congregations that applications to the principal of the fund should be made in writing to the Covenant Commission who will receive, review and approve.
- 7) Agree approval to be forwarded to the Treasurer and Executive Minister to facilitate payment and tracking.
- 8) Agree that at the 10 year anniversary (May 2025) the respective balances remaining in the account will be forwarded to each congregation.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

5. Proposal #2 – Supporting Change

Cheryl-Ann posed the observation that as we are transformed by being in lockdown, what might be a way to harvest our insights? She said that we have enormous financial savings since we do not have an annual meeting. Cheryl-Ann noted that Rev. Cameron Trimble, who spoke at last year's tri-regional meeting captured the imagination and the trust of those gathered, also offers coaching services.

In response to several questions about what this might look like, Cheryl-Ann said she would sort out the possibilities for what might work.

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to:

Authorize the Executive Minister to spend up to \$3,000.USD from the regional council meetings budget line to secure an online session with Rev. Cameron Trimble, preferably in partnership with Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and Antler River Watershed Regional Council, to equip leaders to discern the learnings from this period and to use them for renewal and transformation in their local setting.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

6. Proposal #3 – Support for Global Appeal

Cheryl-Ann said the coronavirus has had a devastating impact around the world and the regional council is reminding communities of faith to encourage generosity from their members in support of local ministry and community and global needs. She said that the regional council budget sets aside over \$2,000 per month for travel for staff and little of that was spent in March and none of it will be spent in April or May. Cheryl-Ann said that this is a way to help people with need, for those of us who have capacity.

The proposal is that the Regional Council Executive agrees to authorize the Executive Minister to:

- a) Forward \$2,500 to the United Church of Canada COVID-19 Global Relief; and
- b) Share the story of this donation in the Facebook group and next newsletter.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

7. Faithful Ministry Personnel Update (Cheryl-Ann)

Cheryl-Ann provided a quick update concerning the Faithful Ministry personal has been distributed to other regional councils & other Executive Ministers and has followed up to confirm receipt.

8. Commission reports

No items were raised by the Commission representatives.

Other Business

Heather Davies questioned the time, format and frequency of Zoom meetings. Heather suggested that meetings be a maximum of 1.5 hours, but more frequently to deal with our business. Several other comments were made regarding optimum meeting timing & duration with some support for a maximum 2-hour meeting. Heather Leffler said that we could have proposals a week prior to meeting to provide comments and updates. It was also suggested that meetings could be information sharing rather than decision-making. It was agreed that June 3rd @ 9:30 AM would be an information sharing meeting.

Closing

Gary Clark closed the meeting with prayer at 11:55 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Regional Council Executive, June 3rd, 9:30 AM via Zoom
- Regional Council Executive, June 17th, 9:30 AM via Zoom