

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming
Saturday, November 16, 2019

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council was called to meet on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at the Centre Wellington Sportsplex, 550 Belsyde Ave E, Fergus, Ontario.

1. Opening worship

Gary Clark welcomed everyone in attendance and asked the ministry team to lead the opening worship prior to the start of the meeting.

2. Introduction & Call to Order: President Gary Clark

Following worship, Gary Clark opened the meeting at 10:20 AM in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the authority invested in him by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, calling the meeting of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council to order for whatever business may properly come before it.

Gary Clark asked Tim Reaburn to provide some context for the presentation of proposals and business for today's meeting. Tim explained that we would be using the General Council protocol for our presentations, which allows for discussion and input, then testing the mood of the court prior to proceeding to a motion and vote.

3. Proposal 1: Consent Docket

Moved by: Rod Coates

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

That the consent docket be approved as presented in the workbook.

CARRIED

- 1) Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Business and Agenda Committee to make any changes as necessary;
- 2) Appoint Tim Reaburn as Parliamentarian;
- 3) Name President Gary Clark, Parliamentarian Tim Reaburn, and Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa as the Business and Agenda Committee;
- 4) Set the bounds of the meeting as the Sportsplex Hall in the Centre Wellington Sportsplex in Fergus;
- 5) Make all guests corresponding members;
- 6) Accept the registration as the roll of this meeting;
- 7) Confirm the following appointments made by the Executive to provide the Executive and Commissions with sufficient members to manage their work:
Executive: Joyce Johnston as Indigenous member
Human Resources Commission: Emily Perry, Katy Underwood, Kathi Urbasik-Hindley
Mission and Discipleship Commission: Keith Reynolds

8) Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals:

Step One:

The Presenter will outline:

A) What is the issue? and

B) The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool cards, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

4. Greetings from National: Tim Reaburn

Tim Reaburn noted that he was one of 18 members of General Council Executive, and that he had connected with moderator Richard Bott and General Secretary Nora Sanders, both of whom extended greetings for the meeting today. He went on to briefly describe General Council Executive function and encouraged those present to ask additional questions.

5. Introduction of Joan Tuchlinsky

John Greg Smith said that he was part of the interview team to fill the Social Justice Minister position, then introduced Joan Tuchlinsky, the successful candidate. Joan provided some additional personal remarks, including some context regarding the importance of the appropriate use of gender identity.

6. Community building – President Gary

Gary Clark asked those present, in table groups, to participate in a brief community-building exercise by asking each person to provide their name, pronouns of address, community of faith and—in one sentence—a highlight of their community of faith

7. Introduction of Staff

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa introduced the Western Ontario Waterways regional council staff, as follows:

Diane Blanchard – Pastoral Relations

Kathy Douglas – Faith Formation

Sue Duliban – Executive Assistant

Pretima Kukadia-Kinting – Administration, Communications & Records

Ruthanna Mack – Administration, Mission & Hospitality

John Neff – Congregational Support

Kevin Steeper – Pastoral Support

Joan Tuchlinsky – Social Justice

Kim Uyede-Kai – Right Relations & Indigenous Justice

Regionally Deployed Staff:

Dave Jagger – Stewardship & Gifts

Tanya Cameron – Office of Vocation

[Note: Tanya Cameron & Kathy Douglas were unable to attend due to other commitments.]

8. WOW Jeopardy

Furthering the community and knowledge building, a Western Ontario Waterways-themed Jeopardy game was hosted by Dave Jagger, with contestants Bruce Dickinson, Thom McDonough & Laurie O’Leary, and judge Sue Duliban.

9. Affirming Network

Tim Reburn provided a brief summary of the regional Affirm Network and a few of its activities undertaken since the May annual meeting. He highlighted that the nationwide Affirm Network meeting would be held in London, Ontario in July 2020 (within the Antler River Watershed Regional Council) and encouraged us to consider attending that event.

10. Covenant with Communities of Faith update

Following a brief introduction by Ann Harbridge, John Neff provided an overview of several aspects of the community of faith covenant with the regional council. (A covenant template was provided with the meeting workbook.)

John noted that the covenant contains promises relate to *Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*, and that each community of faith will select symbols which are meaningful for them. Once the community of faith has prepared its covenant, the Covenant Commission will make the arrangements for a mutually agreeable time to celebrate.

John elaborated on some of the details of the community of faith Profile Worksheets & Living Faith Story, including the discernment process to answer such questions as Who are we, Why do we gather, and How do we best use our gifts and blessings, etc.

John also mentioned the annual self-assessment checklist and noted that all the resources for these items are now posted on the regional council’s webpage.

11. Proposal #2 GC Commissioners – Process for Elections

Tim Reburn introduced the process for election of General Council Commissions from our regional council. Our regional council is entitled to elect 13 Commissioners to attend the 44th General Council July 21-25, 2021 in Calgary, Alberta. The regional council President elected in 2020 and installed in 2021 will also attend, for a total of 14. The regional council needs to determine the process by which its commissioners will be elected.

Following an explanation of the proposal, Gary Clark asked for any questions of clarification, resulting in one amendment to the diversity ballot.

Moved by: Tom Dunbar

Seconded by: Elise Feltrin

That the Western Ontario Waterways regional council adopt this process for selecting commissioners to the General Council:

- A) Have an initial round of voting to elect:
- 1) Two (2) Indigenous Commissioners
The process to secure nominations for these positions to be determined in consultation with Indigenous ministries.
 - 2) Four (4) Commissioners who self-identify as meeting the areas of diversity outlined in the Manual 2019, as well as people with disabilities.
- B) Have a second round of voting to elect the balance of Commissioners. Any positions not filled in the first round will be filled by the second. Any nominees not elected in the first round will be on the ballot for the second round.

CARRIED

12. Regional Council Commissions overview

Gary Clark invited each of the commissions to present an overview of their work.

Covenant Commission

Ann Harbridge said that the Covenant Commission's role is not one of oversight as pastoral visits no longer take place. She emphasized that the commission will be walking with communities of faith.

Human Resources Commission

Micol Cottrell said that the Human Resources Commission has remained focused on pastoral relations issues. He said the commission had created its policy documents in a two-day work session and noted that there is a need for additional ministry personnel on this commission.

Mission and Discipleship

Deanne Dickson reported that the Mission & Discipleship Commission has broad geographic membership representation and prioritized its work as follows: mental health and grief support, climate & environment, youth ministry, indigenous matters, UCW, and affirming congregations. Mission Support grant applications have been addressed and a letter outlining each grant decision sent to each applicant. She also highlighted the work of the Grey Bruce Chaplaincy Council.

[Lunch Break 12:30 – 1:15]

13. Proposal #3 Financial Matters: Management of Restricted Gifts

Brent Caslick introduced this proposal by noting our regional council is the beneficiary of funds from the Presbyteries and the Conferences that preceded it. The designated use of these funds is a matter for the regional council to determine.

Following Brent's explanation of the proposal, Gary Clark asked for any questions of clarification, for which several points of clarification were raised.

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Tom Dunbar

That the Western Ontario Waterways regional council direct the Executive to:

- 1) Consolidate funds from separate donors intended to fulfill the same purpose (if this arises);

- 2) Determine how to administer the funds entrusted if a plan for administration was not included to honour the stated purpose of the fund and to benefit the entire regional council;
- 3) When in place, publish the terms for each fund and the application process on the regional council website.

CARRIED

14. Proposal #4 Financial Matters: Unrestricted Funds

Continuing from restricted to unrestricted funds, Brent Caslick explained that our regional council is also the beneficiary of other funds from the Presbyteries and Hamilton and Toronto Conferences who preceded it. These funds are unrestricted and can be used as the regional council determines. He outlined the various inherited funds and touched briefly on the assessment grants and mission & service funds.

Gary Clark asked if there were questions for clarification, in response to which a few questions were raised.

Moved by: Roger Filsinger

Seconded by: Thom McDonough

That the Western Ontario Waterways regional council:

- 1) Establish an operational reserve of \$250,000.
- 2) Draw \$35,000 from the unrestricted reserve in 2020 to:
 - a) Provide each Commission with a budget of up to \$10,000 per year to offer events or to engage in programs of its choosing;
 - b) Provide \$5,000 to cover any honoraria offered to Officers of the regional council
- 3) Cover the costs associated with any emerging situation such as an investigation or review from the reserve;
- 4) Set aside up to \$30,000 for 2020 as an investment in leaders fund with the terms to be established by the Executive so that the funds can be available to support lay members and ministry personnel to participate in learning opportunities and to provide for leadership development and for skill development.

CARRIED

15. Proposal #5 Financial Matters: Operating Year to Date and Proposal #6: Budget 2020

Brent Caslick then presented the year-to-date (October 31, 2019) financial statements and the proposed budget for 2020. It was noted that the Transition Commission was responsible for the initial budget of the regional council, and it committed to work in partnership with Antler River Watershed Regional Council and Horseshoe Falls Regional Council to share staff for a period of three years in order to maximize the availability of specialized staff.

After reviewing the financial statements, Brent Caslick said that the 2019 budget was based on costs available from 2017-2018 and estimates of expenses. The 2020 budget is based on actual salary figures as anticipated and reflects the costs incurred this year with an increase of 3%.

Gary Clark asked if there were questions for clarification, and several questions were asked for understanding of some items. A concern was raised that the mission support grant funding allocated for the Chaplaincies did not indicate commitment to that ministry, to

which Gary Clark responded that mission support grants were determined by the Mission and Discipleship Commission but that the Executive would consider this feedback at its next meeting.

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Mary McKeen

That the Western Ontario Waterways regional council receive the 2019 Operating Statement as of October 31, 2019 for information.

CARRIED

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Anne Gregory

That the Western Ontario Waterways regional council adopt the 2020 Operating budget.

CARRIED

(3 opposed, 1 abstention)

16. Proposal #7: Auditors

Brent Caslick reported that our regional council funds and records are managed by the General Council accounting team. As we are using the same accounting service as General Council, it would be most cost effective to use the same auditors for our regional council.

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Arthur Hill

That the Western Ontario Waterways regional council appoint the General Council auditors, PWC, to perform the 2019 audit of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

CARRIED

17. Announcements

- 1) **Directory:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa asked that communities of faith update pastoral charge and minister profile on ChurchHub, so that a regional council directory can be compiled from that data in the new year.
- 2) **Current Events:** Cheryl-Ann said that the Executive will be considering options so we can let people share upcoming events throughout the regional council
- 3) Dave Jagger provided a summary of the year-to-date M&S givings for our region, noting that it is not a given that givings will continue to decrease, that each congregation is to determine what its givings will be, and offering some suggestions for promoting M&S givings between now and year-end 2019.

18. Closing Motion

Moved by: Rod Coates

Seconded by: Mary McKeen

That the responsibilities and authority of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council be entrusted to its Executive and Commissions in accordance with the Manual 2019 of The United Church of Canada

CARRIED

19. Closing worship with communion

The agenda having been completed, the meeting concluded at 2:40 PM and the worship team closed the day's proceedings with worship and communion.

Signature of Chair

Signature of Secretary

DRAFT

