

REGION 8 TRANSITION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, October 25, 2018
(Supporting, Connecting, Transforming)

The Region 8 Transition Commission was called to meet on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at Drayton United Church, Drayton.

PRESENT

Executive Minister	Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa	Hamilton Conference Representatives	Gord Dunbar Tim Reaburn
Presbytery Representatives	Rod Coates (Bruce) Margaret Krauter (Northern Waters) Mark Laird (Waterloo) Laurie O'Leary (Huron- Perth)	London Conference Representative Executive Assistant	Brent Caslick

Regrets: Sue Duliban, Ann Harbridge, Heather Leffler, Martha Pedoniquotte

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Laurie O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and opened by acknowledging the territory upon which we meet, those who arrived long before we arrived, as well as our lack of understanding and acknowledgement in our relations with indigenous peoples.

Laurie asked that we reflect on the recent Region 8 gathering experience (Saturday, October 20th) and share our overall impressions of the event each other. Positive comments noted included the good turnout (156 registered), good representation from all four represented presbyteries (Bruce, Huron-Perth, Northern Waters & Waterloo), and the guest speaker (Betty Pries). Laurie closed this period of reflection with a short prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Review/Approve Minutes of September 11, 2018

Noting no further comments, Laurie declared the minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting approved by consensus.

4. Update/Report from Executive Minister

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa provided the following updates:

- Commenting upon an email from David Allen (Remit Implementation Project Leader) with an update about commission membership, Cheryl-Ann noted her concerns that we still lack indigenous representation on the Region 8 transition commission. She has had discussions with Martha Pedoniquotte, who has had job conflict issues with our commission meetings, and that we are at risk for undoing previous good work. Follow-up on this issue will continue.

- Cheryl-Ann reported that “nuts & bolts” work is being done on shared services with General Council support staff. She went on to summarize some of the assets coming to Region 8 from the London & Toronto conferences, and stated that will have a good cushion of financial assets with which to start our regional council. Two incorporated foundations will also be included in our initial assets.

5. Region 8 Gathering Debrief – October 20 at Mount Forest United Church

Laurie O’Leary asked for further comments about the Saturday Region 8 gathering event and feedback received for name options for Region 8. Several suggestions were bandied about based on feedback from the gathering event, with consensus coalescing on “Western Ontario Waterways” (WOW), proposed by Brent Caslick.

Tim Reaburn suggested that this proposal be reviewed with Kim Uyede-Kai (Minister, Right Relations & Indigenous Justice) and identified in the next newsletter that we listened to the gathering event feedback. A final decision will be made at the November transition commission meeting.

6. Review/Approval of Mission Support Grant Applications

Commission members discussed the principles of what ought to receive grants and what ought not to, with Cheryl-Ann noting our priorities of connecting, supporting & transforming should assist with our decision-making.

All 2019 grant applications were reviewed and discussed in detail, including the paperwork & financial statements, with the final approvals summarized in Attachment #1.

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Brent Caslick

That the 2019 Mission Support Grant Applications be approved as agreed.

CARRIED

7. Continue Governance Discussion/Work

Cheryl-Ann shared some additional thoughts on governance. She noted that she has engaged the executive of the 14 presbyteries within Regions 7, 8 & 9 to understand their life and work, which has been a good experience. Her observation is that decision-making takes a great deal of effort and suggested that it might be streamlined with a smaller group of decision-makers (meeting once per month, and once every three months face-to-face). She suggested that regional representation be categorized into one of several teams or commissions, and that for the short-term pastoral relations work will continue with the existing presbytery representatives.

Cheryl-Ann suggested that we gather the existing representatives together, provide them with appropriate training, and continue group discussions with those in the requisite commissions needing to be established. Gord Dunbar suggested that interactive webinar-based training could be set up for training of commission members. Cheryl-Ann offered to draft a position description for representatives to regional council, as well as the role of the commissions accountable to regional councils and bring this back to another meeting. It was agreed that a teleconference meeting will be arranged to discuss this – November 12th at 0930h.

8. New Business

Mark Laird asked if arrangements with Unifor Centre had been confirmed for the May 2019 annual meeting, to which Cheryl-Ann responded that said some of these discussions have begun. Gord Dunbar presented the suggestion that there be a region responsible for hosting each day of the May annual meeting.

Tim Reaburn said there would be tentative recommendations arising from the Mission Strategy & Support Hamilton Conference legacy investment funds. Tim went on to mention that General Council Executive had recently viewed a presentation for national church website, and noted that worship resources are the most common resource sought on the site, and that we don't want to lose sight of the importance of worship in our discussions about governance, commissions, & etc.

Rod Coates asked if we needed to appoint additional signing authority for expenses.

Moved by: Rod Coates

Seconded by: Tim Reaburn

That Brent Caslick, Laurie O'Leary, Ruthanna Mack, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa be the signing authorities for financial matters for Region 8 of The United Church of Canada.

9. Closing

The meeting closed at 1:50 PM.

10. Upcoming Meetings

- November 12 teleconference call at 0930h.
- November 29/30 (Best Western Stone Ridge Conference Centre) (Region 7, 8 & 9) beginning at lunchtime on the 29th.

Signature of Chair

Signature of Secretary

Attachment #1

Region 8 Mission Support Grants for 2019

Category	Applicant	Grant Request	Grant Approved
Camps	Camp Bimini	\$15,000	\$15,000
	Camp Menesetung	\$20,000	\$15,000
Chaplaincy	Grey Bruce Healthcare Chaplaincy Council	\$30,000	\$20,000
	Ecumenical Campus Ministry — University of Guelph	\$32,000	\$30,000
Support/ Communications	Huron-Perth Presbytery Christian Resource Centre	\$25,000	\$20,000
	Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources	\$9,864	\$9,000
Total		\$131,864	\$109,000