

Western Ontario Waterways TRANSITION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
(Supporting, Connecting, Transforming)

The Western Ontario Waterways Transition Commission was called to meet on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at Exeter United Church, Exeter.

PRESENT

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

Regrets: Martha Pedoniquotte

Guests: Kevin Steeper (Pastoral Support Minister), Kathy Douglas (Faith Formation Minister)

1. Call to Order

Laurie O’Leary welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM. A round-the-table series of introductions was made by all present.

2. Acknowledgement of Territory/Opening Prayer

Laurie O’Leary said that long before settlers arrived there were already many here with a tradition of stewardship of the land, noting that the region our commission represents is situated on unceded territory of several First Nations peoples whose culture, traditions & stewardship of the land we acknowledge with respect.

Laurie read from one of Joyce Rupp’s books, *Inviting God In*, with a commentary on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, concluding with a brief prayer.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Ann Harbridge

That the meeting agenda be approved with amendments.

CARRIED

4. Introduction of Staff

Kevin Steeper, Pastoral Support Minister, introduced himself and described his role in the context of pastoral support for ministry personnel. He said he is presently connecting with existing ministry peer support groups and looking to develop new support groups. He asked that he be provided information on any existing groups, including contact information.

Existing peer group & cluster information was provided by Mark Laird, Tim Reaburn, Heather Leffler, Gord Dunbar, Ann Harbridge & Marg Krauter. Kevin encouraged others to provide connections to him if/as they become available.

Cheryl-Ann posed a question about how to connect intentionally with newcomers to clergy groups, and some of the ways in which support groups can devolve into something different. There was some added general discussion about the characteristics of pastoral support, pastoral relations, clusters & relationships.

Kathy Douglas, Faith Formation Minister, said that she is working with a database of information and determining which groups are currently meeting. She has begun connecting with folks in different areas and begun looking at sharing or partnering with individuals in setting up clusters or events. She has been spoken with some UCW members in the Western Ontario Waterways region and is planning a gathering event in February (at Stratford). She said she was also working setting up a youth event, building on work done previously at Camp Bimini. Plans for a Youth Forum, previously done at London Conference, are also in development.

Cheryl-Ann said that Western Ontario Waterways region has not yet figured out how youth might participate in our regional council, and that any suggestions would be welcome. She noted that others have used Youth Forum to nominate participants. It was agreed that we would consider a proposal from Kathy for how this might be done. Cheryl-Ann suggested we might want to poll past Conference Youth Forum attendees to solicit their input and advice.

(Kevin Steeper and Kathy Douglas left the meeting at this time)

Cheryl-Ann made some overarching comments about how staff are dealing with the new structure and workload, along with existing time-consuming work associated with transition from the pre-existing organization, plus an absence of a full suite of tools to enable their work. It was agreed that while we have not yet everything in place, we are not worried that eventually we will do so.

Ann Harbridge suggested that some of the “grunt work” which was previously done by volunteers might be done outside this meeting forum, given that we don’t have all the commissions in place at this time. This would enable some volunteers to do this work and present to the transition commission for implementation. Ann Harbridge & Heather Leffler volunteered to do this work on behalf of the commissions.

5. Approval of Minutes – November 12 & 30, 2018

Moved by: Gord Dunbar

Seconded by: Mark Laird

That the minutes of the November 12, 2018 meeting of the Region 8 Transition Commission Meeting be approved as printed. **CARRIED**

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Brent Caslick

That the minutes of the November 30, 2018 meeting of the Region 8 Transition Commission Meeting be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

Commenting on the Mission Support Grants (November 12, 2018 meeting minutes) Cheryl-Ann said that current funding of our region's operation is being done by General Council until such time as all the legacy funds (i.e., presbytery & conference) are consolidated. She said that as many transactions as possible will be done via e-transfer rather than cheque. Mileage will be paid electronically in future, either quarterly or unless a \$500 minimum is exceeded.

Moved by: Ann Harbridge

Seconded by: Tim Reaburn

That any two of the following five have the authority to endorse expenses for Western Ontario Waterways: Diane Blanchard, Sue Duliban, Ruthanna Mack, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and the Treasure of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (to be named) **CARRIED**

6. Debrief - Ontario & Quebec Aboriginal Congregations and Great Lakes Waterways Presbytery Implementation Gathering

Brent Caslick & Heather Leffler attended a portion of this gathering on Saturday, January 12th, at Hamilton. Heather described some of the experience, noting that it had begun with smudging ceremony and worship, followed by a sharing time about each of the represented regions. Cape Croker and Saugeen Wesley representatives, part of the Western Ontario Waterways region geographic area, met separately with Heather & Brent and spoke about how they felt connected to their previous Bruce Presbytery relationships. One of the ideas discussed was agreeing to things by consensus. Both Cape Croker & Saugeen Wesley expressed the wish to be part of the new region, while still have a connection with an indigenous gathering as well. Good connection with our communities, and a great diversity of opinions at the gathering.

Cheryl-Ann, who also attended the gathering, noted that those in a current relationship with a previous presbytery or region wished to retain a relationship with their respective region. She said that our job is to listen and described some of the difficult conversations which took place at the gathering. Cheryl-Ann felt there ought to be reconsideration of the indigenous representation on the regional council executive, that we be open to the possibility of a different type of arrangement and that our governance is draft & subject to change.

7. Governance Handbook

Based on consensus from those in attendance, Laurie O'Leary stated that the Western Ontario Waterways Governance Handbook circulated prior to the meeting would be issued.

8. Pastoral Relations:

(a) Flesherton/Eugenia - Appointment of Supervisor, David Shearman (Ann Harbridge)

Moved by: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council appoint David Shearman as pastoral charge supervisor of the Flesherton/Eugenia pastoral charge effective immediately. **CARRIED**

Moved by: Gord Dunbar

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the appointment of Rev. David Shearman, retired supply, to the Flesherton/Eugenia pastoral change beginning February 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2019, for 12 (twelve) hours per week, with the terms noted on the appointment form and amended salary. **CARRIED**

(b) Bayfield - Appointment of Supervisor, Kate Crawford (Laurie O'Leary)

Laurie O'Leary stated that Elise Feltrin is on sabbatical from St. Andrew's United, Bayfield until the end of March, 2019.

Moved by: Ann Harbridge

Seconded by: Mark Laird

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the appointment of Kate Crawford as pastoral charge supervisor to St. Andrew's United, Bayfield, until the end of Elise Feltrin's sabbatical. **CARRIED**

(c) Cathy Larmond - Call Form

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Tim Reaburn

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the call of Cathy Larmond to Clinton United Church, effective March 18th, 2019, with the terms noted on the Covenant for Call sheet (PR450). **CARRIED**

Cheryl-Ann noted that a covenanting service will be required, in consultation with the congregation's liaison, as suits their worship style. A covenanting service is required for any appointment greater than 6 months.

[Note: The meeting broke for lunch 12:40 – 1:10 PM]

(d) Palmerston United Church

Laurie O'Leary noted that Pirie Mitchell had resigned from his interim ministry appointment at Palmerston United Church effective 30 Dec, which had been accepted by Bruce Presbytery. She went on to say that Palmerston had also been in discussion with the Moorefield and Fordwich pastoral charges and that a joint meeting of the three respective was held the previous evening attended by her, Dianne Blanchard, and John Neff. Laurie said that a motion approved by the Moorefield Council requested the appointment of Rev. Pirie Mitchell be extended to 30 March 2019, to allow the three pastoral charges the opportunity to set in place a shared ministry arrangement. Gord Dunbar & Tim Reaburn provided some additional background context to the appointment and the Palmerston interim ministry.

A report from Palmerston transition team was also received by Laurie O'Leary summarizing the outcomes of the interim ministry. Given that the Palmerston transition team had issued its final report, extending the interim ministry seemed inappropriate; the commission agreed that some extension would be necessary in order to establish pulpit supply prior to a permanent shared ministry arrangement.

Moved by: Ann Harbridge

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the extension of the interim ministry appointment of Rev Pirie Mitchel at Palmerston United Church to February 28th.

CARRIED

(two abstentions)

(e) Port Elgin United Church

A Living Faith Story and request to declare a vacancy at Port Elgin United Church has been received.

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Tim Reaburn

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council affirm the Port Elgin United Church Living Faith Story, pending clarification of educational requirements.

CARRIED

Moved by: Gord Dunbar

Seconded by: Mark Laird

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council declare a vacancy at Port Elgin United Church.

CARRIED

(f) Westminster United Church

Westminster United Church, Orangeville has requested the re-appointment Kerrie Perry pending the return of their minister from a long-term absence.

Moved by: Ann Harbridge

Seconded by: Brent Caslick

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the reappointment of Rev Kerrie Perry at Westminster United Church with terms noted on the Covenant for Call sheet (PR450).

CARRIED

(g) Authorization of Presbytery Representatives

Moved by: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa

Seconded by: Mark Laird

That Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council confirms the appointment of A) pastoral charge supervisors; and B) representatives assisting congregations with either pastoral relations matters or other items, such as property, as in place in the preceding Presbyteries at December 21, 2018 and as reported to the Regional Council. A listing to be provided as an appendix to these minutes once all Presbyteries have reported. **CARRIED**

Moved by: Gord Dunbar

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council confirms the granting of a licence to celebrate sacraments according to the terms of The Manual 2019 and as authorized by the preceding Conferences. **CARRIED**

(h) Hensall United Church

Brent Caslick provided an overview of the proposal to purchase the Hensall United Church. Proceeds of the sale are to be held in trust pending approval of the regional council as there is no property policy yet in place, and the congregation needs to have a plan for the use of the funds.

Moved by: Brent Caslick

Seconded by: Gord Dunbar

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve sale of Hensall United Church, with net proceeds (with the exclusion of legal fees) to be held in trust by the trustees pending presentation of a plan for the proceeds and approval of the same by the regional council. **CARRIED**

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Ann Harbridge

That all church property sale proceeds be held in trust by the trustees of the congregation pending development of a property plan by the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. **CARRIED**

9. **Covenanting Services**

We wish to have regional representation at the following covenanting services:

- i) Kate Ballagh-Steeper - Lakeshore United Church, Goderich
 - This will be deferred
- ii) Ken Whiting - Northside-Cavan Pastoral Charge, Seaforth
 - Brent Caslick
- iii) Andrea Allan – Westminster, Waterloo
 - Defer to future meeting
- iv) Cathy Larmond – Clinton United
 - Defer to future meeting

10. Correspondence / Outstanding Matters:

- (a) Week of Guided Prayer Network (Hamilton Conference) Heather Leffler and Pat Gushue
Heather Leffler asked for consideration of some expenses for the volunteers for this network, considering that there is offsetting revenue that this program provides.

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Gord Dunbar

That Western Ontario Waterways authorizes payment of mileage of volunteers for Week of Guided Prayer program up to a maximum of 75% of net program receipts.

CARRIED

(one abstention)

- (b) Skylight Festival - Deborah Laforet, Michael Shewburg
This was a follow-up to a previous request for funding for this event. Comments from those present included a wish to see a financial plan for the festival, and also to understand what neighbouring regions might contribute to the event.

- (c) Question from Philanthropy & Stewardship Committee, Hamilton Conference:
How will your region do the work of philanthropy and stewardship and how will this work be included in your governance structure? (20 Nov 2018)
- defer to February meeting.

- (d) Request from Susan Usaty:
Two youth at Parkminster United Church (Waterloo) are travelling to Colombia for 10 days over March Break with the Two Countries One World program, which has been previously supported by Waterloo Presbytery, and are looking for financial support.
Comments on this request:
- History of donations and more information about the trip and the two people.
- Not in a position to respond given that we are still developing our financial programs

- (e) Individual Learning Grants:
i) If we will support individual learning with grants?
ii) If so, what funds will be use and what will the criteria be?
iii) And, while we are figuring this out, how will be deal with request like the Winterlude one which is time sensitive?
- defer to February meeting.

- (f) Worship United Project
Laurie O'leary explained that this is a year-long worship resource for each Sunday of a given year, with contributors from various regions across the country, comprising full worship liturgy and hymn suggestions.
Mark Laird commented that he had a complete set of worship services from last summer that could be used, matching superheroes to bible characters. This will be submitted, and it was agreed that we will look for other contributors and other ways to contribute to this program.

(g) Camp Menesetung – Reaching Out to Congregations

Clayton Peters, executive director at Camp Menesetung, has written a letter asking for ways to better connect with local congregations which the camp would serve. It was agreed that we would provide the camp information via newsletter rather than directly to congregations, and perhaps use Kathy Douglas as a contact person.

11. Closing

Laurie O’Leary declared the meeting agenda completed and the meeting closed at 3 PM.

12. Next Meeting

- February 20 at Drayton United Church.

Signature of Chair

Signature of Secretary