

**Western Ontario Waterways Transition Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**  
*(Supporting, Connecting, Transforming)*

The Western Ontario Waterways Transition Commission was called to meet on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at Drayton United Church, Drayton.

**PRESENT**

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

**Guests:** Diane Blanchard (Minister, Pastoral Relations), John Neff (Minister, Congregational Support and Mission),

**1. Welcome / Gathering / Check-In**

Laurie O’Leary welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM, briefly outlining the agenda and purpose of today’s meeting.

**2. Acknowledgement of Territory**

Laurie O’Leary said that in the spirit of welcome we acknowledge that before we arrived as settlers there were already many here with a tradition of stewardship of the land, known as First Nations. She said that the region our commission represents, where we work & worship are situated on unceded territories of several First Nations peoples whose culture, traditions & stewardship of the land we acknowledge with respect, and may we live in friendship and peace with our First Nations brothers and sisters.

**3. Worship**

Gord Dunbar led the meeting in worship, beginning with a reading based on John 13 (Jesus washing disciples’ feet), from Rising With the Morning Star, a Lenten study. Continuing with the imagery of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in the Upper Room, Gord asked those present to share how they felt vulnerable, which each participant did as they felt comfortable. Following this sharing time Gord concluded with a brief prayer.

**4. Pastoral Relations Update**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa took the opportunity to seek advice about pastoral relationship issues related to Hampstead United Church and the engagement of Stephen

Guiliano for pulpit supply. Cheryl-Ann provided background information and explained that Stephen is the executive director/chaplain for Operation Sharing, a community outreach organization based in Woodstock, ON. The current relationship is problematic in that Stephen is not a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) or a Designated Lay Minister (DLM); he is noted as their 'Minister' and is available for 'counselling' and, therefore, poses an issue with the polity of the United Church of Canada. After some discussion about various concerns and options, additional feedback about walking with this congregation into some form of resolution was provided. Cheryl-Ann stated that she was pleased to have both feedback and support, and John Neff & Laurie O'Leary will follow up with this issue with the congregation. Brent Caslick mentioned Rostock United Church as a possible partner with Hampstead.

## **5. Building Commissions**

Cheryl-Ann asked for confirmation that the Executive is working on creating three commissions (per the region's Governance Handbook) and that the Executive positions would be approved at the annual meeting. After Cheryl-Ann outlined an election process for the Executive, both Heather Leffler & Tim Reaburn shared their experience with election processes and having a slate of candidates presented to the annual meeting of the regional council. Another suggestion included the option of having an anonymous (no-name) list with only skill sets. The need for staggered terms so that the executive and commissions membership doesn't all expire at the same time was also mentioned.

Cheryl-Ann suggested an orientation and training session for commission members in June, following the annual meeting, so that the transition commission can provide their wisdom (i.e., the thinking around how & why the commissions were formed) to the new commission members.

The consensus was that there should be a slate of candidates for this first annual meeting, and that the elections can be done differently in future annual meetings.

At the time of this meeting, 58 expressions of interest had been received. After a brief discussion and overview of the forms submitted, further decisions regarding the expressions of interest were:

- The expression of interest form will be refined and include clarification of the options of serving with a commission versus resource pool.
- Congregations will be contacted by telephone to confirm they are engaged in the process. Cheryl-Ann and Sue Duliban will create a list of congregations to be contacted and make assignments.

It was agreed that following updates to the expression of interest forms and collection of additional submissions, a final list of candidates for the various commissions will be created. It was agreed that the list will be assembled by a small group of individuals and returned to the Executive for approval.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Archives & Record Keeping Consultation**

Laurie O'Leary said she had received a request for our regional council to provide representation to an Archives & Record Keeping Consultation in June 2019.

**Moved by:** Heather Leffler

**Seconded by:** Tim Reaburn

That Rod Coates be our representative to the Archives & Record Keeping Consultation.

**CARRIED**

### **(b) Terms of Appointment**

Ann Harbridge asked that the decision that terms of calls or appointments not be included in meeting minutes be revisited. After much input, the consensus was that this is a privacy issue and while there is a need for the information to be tracked by specific people, financial details are not written into the minutes for broader consumption.

### **(c) Youth at the Annual Meeting**

Cheryl-Ann proposed that space be allocated for up to 20 youth at the annual meeting, with nomination coordination provided by Kathy Douglas (Faith Formation Minister). Heather Leffler suggested that youth be approved as corresponding members at the annual meeting. Cheryl-Ann and Tim Reaburn will follow up with a proposal regarding youth participation (i.e., voting or not).

### **(d) UCW Update**

Cheryl-Ann said that three UCW presbyteries affiliated with former presbyteries within our region wish to have a regional alignment. She said that Huron-Perth UCW have decided – for 2019 only – that they are planning to align with the Antler River Regional Council. Cheryl-Ann said that this decision is causing some difficulties, but our region will continue to support the UCW.

### **(e) Hensall Update**

Cheryl-Ann said she had briefed one of Hensall United Church trustees on our current property thinking, pending an approved policy, and how this should be viewed as an investment in the mission.

[Meeting adjourned for lunch 12:40 – 1:25]

## **7. Property Policy**

Cheryl-Ann led the meeting through an overview of concepts regarding revenue, operating expenses, and assets. She noted that property is an asset and has potential to invest in ministry or generate income.

There needs to be a threshold for major renovations above which the regional council needs to be consulted. Additionally, spending of assets/reserves requires a threshold. Congregations hold all their assets for their use during their lifetime. When congregations amalgamate, all assets become jointly owned and in general nothing becomes surplus. When congregations disband the date is important: assets remaining after the disbanding

date become remaining property for the region to decide. In general, net proceeds are used by the ministries of the United Church.

Some of the considerations are:

- Indigenous church
- Real property
- Assessments
- Archives
- M&S (current & endowment)
- Congregation's wishes
- Regional share

A broader discussion continued with comments about how to approach the various considerations of the property policy. Following that fulsome discussion, the agreed principles for agreement/concurrence/involvement of Regional Council were:

- 1) Major renovations, or use of unrestricted assets, >50% of net revenue (as determined by per annual assessment).
- 2) In the event of amalgamations, assets will not be declared surplus. Instead, it will be required that assets follow the congregation into the amalgamation.
- 3) For disbanding, the disbursement of assets will be the same prior to and after the disbandment date, as follows:
  - TBD – Assessments (any outstanding at time of disbanding)
  - 15% - Indigenous church
  - 5% - Archives
  - 25% - M&S (12.5% current & 12.5% endowment)
  - 30% - Congregation's wishes
  - 25% - Regional share

It was agreed that there needs to be some flexibility around the congregational share – e.g., the congregation can allocate its assets to any of the above or to a United Church ministry. Laurie O'Leary declared these principles to be agreed by consensus, and the basis for the layout of the policy document to be presented to a future meeting.

#### **8. Wallace Pastoral Charge heads up (C-A/John)**

Cheryl-Ann and John Neff provided a brief update on the Wallace Pastoral Charge, noting that the ending of this PC has turned out to be “unattractive”, with the other two congregations of the 3-point pastoral charge requesting to become a new 2-point pastoral charge. Cheryl-Ann said that this matter will need to come to the Regional Council for a future decision in future and to appoint trustees to dispose of the property.

#### **9. Closing**

Laurie O'Leary reminded us of our upcoming meeting next week (March 28<sup>th</sup>). It was noted that the April meeting (17<sup>th</sup>) is during Holy Week, and an alternative date of April 23<sup>rd</sup> was proposed, to be confirmed at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Laurie declared the meeting closed at 3:25 PM.

**10. Next Meetings**

- ZOOM – March 28, 2019 @ 10 a.m.
- ZOOM – April 23, 2019 @ 10 a.m. [Note proposed change of date from April 17]

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Signature of Chair

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Signature of Secretary