

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 via teleconference (ZOOM).

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 – via teleconference) Margaret Krauter (Northern Waters) Mark Laird (Waterloo) Laurie O’Leary (Huron-Perth)	London Conference Representative Executive Assistant	Brent Caslick Sue Duliban

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

1. Welcome / Gathering / Check-In

Laurie O’Leary welcomed everyone in attendance and opened the meeting at 10:02 AM.

2. Acknowledgement of Territory

Laurie O’Leary said that we pause to remember that the lands upon which we live and those whom we represent were the traditional territories of those with stewardship of the land known as First Nations. She said that the region our commission represents, where we work & worship, is situated on the unceded territories of several First Nations peoples whose culture, traditions & stewardship of the land we acknowledge with respect, desiring to live in friendship and peace with our First Nations brothers and sisters.

3. Worship

Laurie O’Leary read from the book, Lent - A Time for Returning, beginning with a reading from Joel 13. She continued with a meditation on the story of the prodigal son, which is a story of returning. She said that God does not require a pure heart before retuning – God will take us back and is glad to see us home, waiting with open arms to embrace us. She finished with a reading from Isaiah 42, and concluded with prayer.

4. Approval of Consent Docket

Laurie O’Leary reminded the meeting that our commission agrees by consensus and emphasized that we are talking with and not talking about. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa said that we should appoint a consensus monitor to fulfill that expectation.

In response to an email discussion shared between Rod Coates & Heather Leffler, it was noted that we continue to function as the Transition Commission, so any references to “Executive” in the minutes should be taken to mean Commission & not Executive. Laurie O’Leary then declared the meeting consent docket to be approved by consensus, as follows:

1. Approval of Agenda – that the Agenda as circulated be the agenda of the meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes – that the minutes of the meetings of 20 February 2019 and of 20 March 2019 as circulated be approved.

5. Approval of Pastoral Relations Consent Docket

Prior to approval of the Pastoral Relations Consent Docket, reviewing the material contained therein, commission members discussed the cut-off date for submissions to the Consent Docket. Cheryl-Ann suggested that Monday noon should be the cut-off date for a Wednesday meeting, and anything further to that would be added to the Dropbox shared folder as a separate item. It was agreed that the updates from Palmerston-Moorefield-Fordwich and Wallace would be lifted from today’s Consent Docket. Laurie O’Leary declared the pastoral relations consent docket to be approved by consensus, with those exclusions.

A. Property Matters

B. Requests for Change in Pastoral Relations

...accepts the request for a change in pastoral relations from Ingrid Remkins, Diaconal Minister at Trinity United Church of the Grand Valley Pastoral Charge, effective July 1, 2019, for the purpose of retirement, and give thanks for her ministry.

C. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

...name Mary Elizabeth Piercy (retired DM) as the pastoral charge supervisor for Grenfel United church of the Grenfel Pastoral Charge effective immediately to cover while they do not have a minister called or appointed.

...name Rev. Randy Banks as the pastoral charge supervisor for Londesborough United Church of the Londesborough Pastoral Charge & Knox United Church of the Auburn: Knox Pastoral Charge, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper as the pastoral charge supervisor for Brussels United Church, of the Brussels Pastoral Charge & Blythe United Church of the Blythe Pastoral Charge, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Doug Trewartha as the pastoral charge supervisor for Egmondville United Church of the Egmondville Pastoral Charge, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Rev. Mary Stewart as the pastoral charge supervisor for Hampstead United Church of the Millbank-Hampstead Pastoral Charge, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Rev. Mary Stewart as the pastoral charge supervisor for St. Paul's United Church of the Milverton: St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Dave Williams as the pastoral charge supervisor for Thames Road-Elimville United Church of the Thames Road-Elimville United Church, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Mark Laird (DM) as the pastoral charge supervisor for Moorefield United Church of the Moorefield-Rothsay Pastoral Charge, effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

...name Rev. Jessica Cottrell as the pastoral charge supervisor for Fordwich Pastoral Charge effective immediately as they work to fill their vacancy.

D. Living Faith Stories / Vacancies:

...receive for information the Community of Faith profile including demographic profile, financial information for Palmerston United Church of the Palmerston Pastoral Charge and, that a vacancy for ½ time minister (20 hrs/wk) be declared and, that Rev. John Neff be named as the Pastoral Relations Liaison to work with the search committee to fill the vacancy.

...receive for information the Community of Faith profile including demographic profile, financial information for Moorefield United Church of the Moorefield – Rothsay Pastoral Charge and, that a vacancy for ½ time minister (20 hrs / wk) be declared and, that Rev. John Neff be named as the Pastoral Relations Liaison to work with the search committee to fill the vacancy.

...receive for information the Community of Faith profile including demographic profile, financial information for Fordwich United Church of the Fordwich Pastoral Charge and, that a vacancy for ¼ time minister (10 hrs/wk) be declared and, that Rev. John Neff be named as the Pastoral Relations Liaison to work with the search committee to fill the vacancy.

Palmerston, Moorefield & Fordwich United Churches will do a joint search for a ¾ time minister, with the split to be 50/25/25 of 30 hrs per week, to cover for one year as they search for their full time minister, with a ministry sharing agreement in place.

E. Approving & Appointing Liaisons:

... appoints Marg Krauter as the region's pastoral relations liaison to represent the region at the covenanting service between Creemore Pastoral Charge (St. John's, Creemore & New Lowell United Churches) and Rev. Jane Sullivan.

.... appoints Rev. Bonnie Holliday as the region's pastoral relations liaison effective immediately to work with the Londesborough & Knox United Churches of the Londesborough and Auburn: Knox Pastoral Charges to fill their vacancies.

.... appoints Rev. Mary Stewart as the region's pastoral relations liaison effective immediately to work with the Hampstead United Church of the Millbank-Hampstead Pastoral Charge to fill their vacancy.

.... appoints Rev. Mary Stewart as the region's pastoral relations liaison effective immediately to work with St. Paul's United Church, of the Milverton: St. Paul's Pastoral Charge to fill their vacancy.

.... appoints Rev. Mary Stewart as the region's pastoral relations liaison effective immediately to work with the St. Mary's United Church of the St. Mary's Pastoral Charge to fill their vacancy.

.... appoints Margaret Krauter as the region's pastoral relations liaison effective immediately to work with the Holland Centre pastoral charge to fill their vacancy.

...appoints Brent Caslick as the region's pastoral relations liaison immediately to attend a congregational meeting to receive a recommendation for a call to the Wingham & Bluevale United Churches of the Wingham Pastoral Charge and the Bluevale Pastoral Charge.

F. Calls:

....concurs with the request of Creemore Pastoral Charge (Creemore: St. John's United church and New Lowell United Church) and approves the call of Rev. Jane Sullivan Ordained Minister part time at 30 hours per week effective March 1, 2019 with the terms as noted on the record of call or appointment form dated February 26, 2019. This appointment does require a covenanting service, and that Marg Krauter be appointed to represent the region at the covenanting service

....concurs with the request of Mount Carmel-Zion United Church of the Morrison: Mount Carmel-Zion Pastoral Charge and approves the change to the call of Margaret Ruggles, Diaconal Minister part time at 20 hours per week effective April 1, 2019 with the terms as noted on the record of call or appointment form dated February 26, 2019. This call does require a covenanting service

G. Appointments:

...concurs with the request of Calvary Memorial United Church, of the Calvary Memorial Pastoral Charge, Kitchener and approves the appointment of Rev. Lilian Patey, Ordained Minister full time at 40 hours per week from May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2021 with the terms as noted on the record of call or appointment form dated January 8, 2019. This

appointment does require a covenanting service and that Joan Tuchlinksy is the liaison and is appointed to be the representative of the region for the covenanting service.

...concur with the request of Belwood – Metz Pastoral Charge (St. John's United Church, Belwood & St. Paul's United Church, Wellington North) and approves the appointment of Rev. Rienk Vlietstra Retired Supply, Ordained part time at 32 hours per week from July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 with the terms as noted on record of call or appointment form dated March 3, 2019. This appointment does not require a covenanting service.

.....concur with the request of Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge (Rockwood United Church & Stone United Church, Guelph-Eramosa) and approves the appointment of Lisa Leffler, Candidate Supply for Sunday Supply, May 5, 2019 to September 1, 2019 with the terms as noted on record of call or appointment form dated March 18, 2019. This appointment does not require a covenanting service.

H. Covenanting Services

I. Sabbatical Plans

...approve the request from Lucknow United Church of the Lucknow Pastoral Charge, for a Sabbatical Relief Grant in the amount of \$3,250.00, and forward same to the United Church of Canada.

J. Closures/ Amalgamations/ Sharing Agreements

... in accordance with the motion made by Northern Waters Presbytery on Oct. 23, 2018, St. John's United Church Flesherton and Eugenia United Church both of the Flesherton Pastoral Charge will amalgamate. As approved by both congregations, the effective date of the amalgamation to be June 1, 2019.

...concur with the request of the Nottawa-Rob Roy Pastoral Charge (Nottawa United Church & Rob Roy Zion United Church) and the Grey Dufferin Pastoral Charge (Badjeros United Church) to share a minister, and approve the Shared Ministry Agreement dated March 17, 2019.

...concur with the request of the Palmerston, Moorefield & Fordwich United Churches of the Palmerston, Moorefield-Rothsay and Fordwich Pastoral Charges to share a minister, and approve the Covenant of Co-operation dated March 14, 2019

K. Constitution

...concur with the request of the Exeter United Church of the Exeter Pastoral Charge and approve the constitution of the Exeter United Church approved by the congregation February 24, 2019 with consideration to be given to the notes provided by Rev. John Neff when finalizing the document.

6. Palmerston-Morefield-Fordwich Shared Ministry

Arising from the discussion about the proposed shared ministry agreement, Ann Harbridge proposed – and Laurie O’Leary stated - that the following was agreed by consensus:

...receive for information the Community of Faith profile including demographic profile, financial information for Palmerston United Church of the Palmerston Pastoral Charge and, that a vacancy for a minister to be shared with Moorefield & Fordwich (Palmerston 50%/ Moorefield 25%/ Fordwich 25%) be declared and, that Rev. John Neff be named as the Pastoral Relations Liaison to work with the search committee to fill the vacancy.

...receive for information the Community of Faith profile including demographic profile, financial information for Moorefield United Church of the Moorefield – Rothsay Pastoral Charge and, that a vacancy for a minister to be shared with Palmerston & Fordwich (Palmerston 50%/ Moorefield 25%/ Fordwich 25%) be declared and, that Rev. John Neff be named as the Pastoral Relations Liaison to work with the search committee to fill the vacancy.

...receive for information the Community of Faith profile including demographic profile, financial information for Fordwich United Church of the Fordwich Pastoral Charge and, that a vacancy for a minister to be shared with Palmerston & Fordwich (Palmerston 50%/ Moorefield 25%/ Fordwich 25%) be declared and,

that Living Faith Story for each pastoral charge to be updated to reflect percentages rather than hours, and

that Rev. John Neff be named as the Pastoral Relations Liaison to work with the search committee to fill the vacancy.

7. Wallace United Church Update

Following an update on the Wallace United Church and the re-alignment of the pastoral charge, the following decisions were made by consensus (except where noted otherwise):

1) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees that in light of the Workplace Violence and Harassment Complaint filed with the Executive Minister by Rev. George Russell concerning an incident related to ongoing bullying from an adherent at Wallace United Church, the Regional Council honours the request of the Official Board of the Calvary-Wallace-Zion pastoral charge to realign the pastoral charge to create the Calvary-Zion pastoral charge effective March 1, 2019 and confirms that Calvary-Zion pastoral charge carries the call to the Rev. George Russell at the terms previously endorsed by the 2018 Annual Meeting; AGREED

Note: Cheryl-Ann stated that there were three incidents associated with this individual and there is no opportunity for resolution. John Neff comment that the closure of the church in one sense takes care of the problem, but if there are further confrontations that the police

should be involved. Cheryl-Ann said she didn't believe any further investigation is merited, and that the complaint being filed is the only process being followed.

2) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council establishes the Wallace United Church pastoral charge effective March 1, 2019 and, in recognition of the earlier congregational meeting in which closure was discussed, and in response to the letter signed by all the members of the congregation, disbands the congregation effective March 24, 2019, with thanks for their long and faithful history in Wallace. Membership certificates will be issued to the signatories.

Note: Cheryl-Ann asked for – and was granted - permission to communicate with the affected individual and noted that all decisions regarding the disposition of Wallace United Church will be the responsibility of the Regional Council and the trustees.

3) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council confirms the appointment of
Brent Caslick 256 Victoria Drive, Centralia, ON N0M 1K0;
Margaret Krauter 113 Robson Rd., R.R. 2, Durham, ON N0G 1R0;
Mark Laird 105 Brock St. P.O. Box 633, Harriston, ON N0G 1Z0
as the trustees of Wallace United Church effective immediately, and further confirms these three trustees as the signing authorities for all financial matters, any two of the three to sign;

4) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council directs the Trustees of Wallace United Church to research Fair Market Value for the property and arrange for its sale;

4) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council names Krista Ford to be hired at the hourly rate of \$25 per hour to work with the Trustees to administer the finances and file any necessary paperwork for the winding up on the charity number 119288041. This cost plus any operating expenses to be covered from the net proceeds of the sale prior to disbursement;

5) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council directs the trustees to change the locks on Wallace United Church;

6) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council takes into consideration the wishes of the Wallace United Church congregation as conveyed in discussion with the Minister, Congregational Support and Mission and the Executive Minister when disbursing the assets.

8. Hamilton Conference Assets

Cheryl-Ann stated that she had received a question from the former Hamilton Conference Treasurer with respect to the assets held by former Hamilton Conference, which are to be shared with the regional councils of Western Ontario Waterways and Horseshoe Falls. Horseshoe Falls has agreed to wait until maturity until cashing out the assets, and the consensus from our Regional Council is that we will do the same.

9. Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation

At 11:30 the meeting was joined by Charles Donley, President of the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC), with an introduction by Cheryl-Ann.

Charles provided the meeting with an overview of the PTCC history and its assets via PowerPoint presentation. The PTCC is a non-profit incorporated ministry and its grants can only be made to CRA-registered charities.

Charles stated that in the current transition phase, presbyteries forwarded their grant applications (before 31 Dec 2018) for payments in 2019 & 2020. The PTCC board continues to operate until its members' terms expire, the first ones being in June 2019, and it is preferable to move to a new structure before those terms expire. As of 1 Jan 2018, there were 6 funds with a value of \$14.6m, with a value of \$6.7m at 31 Dec 2018 due to the dynamics of market and associated grant transactions.

Going forward with a new business model, there are issues involving governance (directors & bylaws), new operating agreement (replace with a Memorandum of Understanding), new policies regarding capital contributions & grants, availability of grants, etc.

Cheryl-Ann stated that decisions are required regarding such things as whether there is continuing value for this type of work, how we would top up capital, how we would allocate revenue from investments, etc. Charles went on to outline some additional operational and policy issues. Cheryl-Ann said that the transition commission needs to have a better understanding of its overall financial situation and so is still not able to articulate its preferences about how to proceed in its relationship with PTCC assets.

There was an interchange of ideas with commission member suggestions regarding some of these issues, including the appointment of new members based on current vacancies, future options for use of the capital from the PTCC investments, and options for new church capital builds. Cheryl-Ann said we need to have further conversation on our preferences before making decisions.

Charles Donley left the meeting at 12:30 PM

Given that the meeting had exceeded the scheduled time, Laurie O'Leary stated that the remainder of the agenda items would be deferred to the next meeting, with the exception of two remaining time-sensitive items.

10. Paisley United Modernization Grant (Cheryl-Ann)

Cheryl-Ann noted that a request from Paisley United Church for a modernization grant was slightly over the threshold, but that the modernization expenditure will bring them into line, that we support the grant, and that we ask General Council to consider the grant request. It was agreed by consensus to approve and move forward the modernization grant application for Paisley United Church.

11. Trinity United – Elmira (Jeff Neff)

Jeff Neff said that a request for approval of proposal for redevelopment of property by Trinity United (Elmira) had been received. John Neff said there were a few outstanding questions with respect to proceeds from sale of assets. Cheryl-Ann noted that the

congregation continues to exist but needed clarification from them regarding the intent for the sale of proceeds; additionally, we would need to see the development agreement and further plans & details regarding the full agreement. John Neff is to proceed with further discussions with Trinity United based on this feedback from Regional Council.

Cheryl-Ann provided the parting comment that today marked the ending of London Conference, with all the office furniture having been removed while out meeting took place today.

Laurie O'Leary declared the meeting closed at 12:55 PM

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held April 23 via ZOOM. Proposed timing is 10-12, lunch break, then continue until 3 PM. The consent docket deadline for this meeting will be Thursday, 18 April 2019.

Signature of Chair

Signature of Secretary