

Covenant Commission
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 9:00 am, Zoom Call

Roster: (9) Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Ross Carter, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Kate Crawford (Rev.)

Staff Support: Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant, Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Present: Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Kate Crawford (Rev.)

Regrets: Sandy Loomis

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Ann Harbridge welcomed all and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for all business that rightfully comes before it.

Acknowledging the Land: Ann Harbridge

I live in the southwest corner of Simcoe County, which is on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We are dedicated to honouring the Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Metis and Inuit people.

Opening Worship: Kate Crawford led a short meditation using the singing bowl.

Opening Agreements:

Welcome Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive minister to the meeting.

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** to receive representatives Lynn McRuer and Margaret Fleury from Glen Morris United Church as corresponding members to this meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** on the agenda.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree to** approve the minutes of May 7, 2020 and June 5, 2020 as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Massie

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa joined the Commission for this discussion.

- a. Another letter received;
- b. Decision needs to be made about how to proceed due to non-compliance.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided an overview and history of the situation. Cheryl-Ann then left the meeting.

The commission welcomed the Glen Morris United Church representatives, and paused discussion of the Massie situation. Thom McDonough & Judy Chalmers joined the meeting.

Glen Morris United Church representatives Lynn McRuer and Margaret Fleury outlined plans for the addition to the church. They noted the church has no qualms about repaying the mortgage and are quite confident they will be able to meet the payments. The church has been looking at different fundraising possibilities due to the pandemic, and are getting back on track with fundraising efforts. Lynn and Margaret left the meeting.

MOTION Thom McDonough / Norm Eygenraam

Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission approves Phase 3 of the Glen Morris United Church building plan and the financial plan they have developed for it. The Commission expresses their thanks to Glen Morris United Church for their ongoing work and enthusiasm.

CARRIED

The commission returned to their discussion of the Massie situation. A fulsome discussion ensued; addressing how to proceed, how to proceed with grace, the history of this continuing issue and the perceptions of the situation within the community of faith, the Covenant Commission and particularly surrounding communities of faith in the area. Ann Harbridge asked all commission members for their opinion.

Possible ways forward:

- Give the congregation the option of leaving the United Church of Canada (implications re: building/funds)
- Conduct a congregational review
- Covenant Commission take over as board

The Commission determined that they were not prepared to make a motion at today's meeting, and felt a meeting devoted to this issue only would be beneficial. It was agreed that including Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, the previous minister at Massie, and Margaret Krauter, the current pastoral charge supervisor, in the conversation would be helpful.

John Neff will advise the Massie community of faith; acknowledging that the Covenant Commission is taking the situation under consideration and will be reviewing.

It was agreed to hold a zoom meeting on June 25th to further discuss the Massie situation.

Thom McDonough left the meeting.

2. Trinity UC, Kitchener – Constitution: stipulation that Section 10-1 re: calling a board meeting, should be changed to be in keeping with *The Manual*. For information: Trinity has been informed of the stipulation.
3. St. Andrew's UC, Bayfield – Community of faith profile – for information.
 - a. Confirmed there is no manse.
 - b. Manse funds are restricted not unrestricted
 - c. Receipt of Annual report and financial information
4. Reflection on how things have gone with the commission over the last year and Exec rep to report in June meeting to the Executive. (What has worked, challenges, blessings, priorities, etc.) Discussion was deferred.

5. One Drive – does everyone have connection? Discussion was deferred.
6. Walter's Falls Disbursement of proceeds
 - a. Status of bank account and GIC? John Neff needs to get answers to some of the questions arising. Deferred to the next meeting of the commission.
7. Letter from Ann Harbridge to community of faiths. Ann will forward today to Pretima Kukadia-Kinting, Admin. Assistant, Communications, for distribution.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
 - a. Arthur Hills – Give thanks for his service to Knox UC, Ayr which ended June 1, 2020
 - b. Mark Waugh - Give thanks for his service to Badjeros UC, which ended June 1, 2020
 - c. Jane Sullivan - Give thanks for her service to Nottawa UC and Rob Roy UC, which ended June 1, 2020
 - d. Greg Smith-Young to Melville UC, Fergus from June 1, 2020 – August 31, 2020 while minister is on sabbatical.
 - e. Marilyn Burnard to Zion UC, New Hamburg from June 15-Sept. 1, 2020 while they are between appointments.
2. Documents
 - a. Wasaga Beach UC 2019 Annual Report
 - b. Arkell UC – Community of Faith Profile (Cover Page, Financial, Demographic, Real Property, Living Faith Story Worksheets), Financials, Cover Letter.
Note - JN: Financial Viability – indicate they secured a portion of Manse funds but investment is non-restricted. I inquired and the investment is the manse money so it be included in the motions that the money is considered restricted.
 The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the recommendation of Arkell United Church is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category **F** for **20** hours per week and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison. Manse funds are considered restricted.
 - c. Tavistock, Grace UC - Community of Faith Profile (Cover Page, Financial, Demographic, Real Property, Living Faith Story Worksheets), Financials.
 The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the recommendation of Grace United Church, Tavistock is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category **D** for **40** hours per week and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.
 - d. Paisley UC - Community of Faith Profile (Cover Page, Financial, Demographic, Real Property, Living Faith Story Worksheets), Financials.
 The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the recommendation of Paisley United Church is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category **A** for **16** hours per week and asks the Human Resources Commission to appoint a liaison.
 - e. St. Andrew's UC, Bayfield – 2019 Annual Report, financial report
 - f. Trinity UC, Elmira – 2019 Annual Report

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the Consent Docket.

Kate Crawford left the meeting.

New Business

1. Terms of Service on Commission – extending until an Annual Regional Meeting can be held. Note: Lyn Workman has decided not to be on the Covenant Commission.

- Term finishing 2020: Margaret Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills will stay on until the fall regional council meeting. Judy, Norm and Arthur are willing to serve for two more years.
- Term finishing 2021: Ann Harbridge, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough, ~~Connie Shiel, (resigned)~~
- Term finishing 2022: Ross Carter, Kate Crawford
- So **CC** needs:
 - 1 more person with a term ending in 2021
 - 2 people with a term ending in 2022
 - 4 people with a term ending in 2023

1. New Ministry Development and Leadership Fund – Review Tottenham/Rich Hill and Westminster grants and approve release of next payment.

MOTION Judy Chalmers / Arthur Hills

Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission acknowledges and supports the overall projects and ongoing work of Tottenham/Rich Hill and Westminster, Orangeville. The Covenant Commission recognizes that the next installment of funds from the New Ministry Development and Leadership (NMDL) Fund of the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation is needed and asks the NMDL to release those funds. **CARRIED**

2. Olivet Fund (correspondence received for information)

3. Rural Connect – Host/Partner churches in live participatory services. For information. John Neff also wanted to acknowledge that the Rural Connect people are ready to go and to help install hubs. John also asked if a community of faith wants a trial, do we help with related costs? Suggested making it known that this is available and there is support from GCO and regional council to get started.

4. Glen Morris UC – Requesting permission for addition (See above: joined meeting at stated hour 10 am).

5. Use of Restricted Funds – extend time? Motion Margaret / Norm

MOTION Margaret Bakker / Norm Eygenraam

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council extend the opportunity to use funds restricted by presbytery or regional council to August 31, 2020.

CARRIED

Next Meetings:

June 25 Massie discussion 9:00 AM

Thursday, July 9, 2020 by Zoom Call 9:00 AM

Worship by: Kate Crawford

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge