

**Covenant Commission**  
**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**  
**OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
*Connecting, Supporting, Transforming*

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 9:30 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), Arthur Hills, Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough (RDLM)

**Regrets:** Kate Crawford

**Welcome and Constitute Meeting:** Ann Harbridge welcomed all and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for all business that 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 prayer:** Ann Harbridge

**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 Marg Krauter, pastoral charge supervisor to Massie United Church, Gary Clark President of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and Kara McCluskie, previous minister to Massie, as corresponding members to this meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

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

**Business Arising**

1. Massie United Church

Ann Harbridge provided a precis of the situation for the benefit of President Gary Clark, noting that there have been numerous conversations and much time spent on this situation. Margaret Krauter and Kara McCluskie briefly shared their past experiences with the community of faith.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa commented that Michael Henkel's suitability for ministry is not the work of the Covenant Commission. The commission's work centres around the fact that the

community of faith entered into a pastoral relationship beyond the bounds of their authority; moving into the relationship without properly posting their profile, with no approvals from the Human Resources and Covenant Commissions.

Ann Harbridge outlined the possible actions to be taken (APPENDIX A: Process options for Massie UC)

Lengthy discussion followed on possible ways forward. Debate focused mainly on point 7 and point 5 in the process options document.

Gary Clark asked that the commission think about the purpose of whatever action is chosen – to make the UCC look better? To make the community of faith feel better about the process? Neither of which he thought would happen. He suggested, rather, that offering conversation would be the faithful thing to do.

**MOTION:** Thom McDonough / Arthur Hills

The Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission agrees to proceed with a facilitated conversation involving all members of the Covenant Commission, President Gary Clark and one other representative from the WOWRC Executive, the Massie United Church community of faith, Michael Henkel, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and John Neff. A facilitator to be found. A code of conduct to be established and circulated for the conversation.

The Massie United Church community of faith will be advised that an in person conversation will be established as soon as provincial and public health guidelines permit. At that time a date will be confirmed, individual rsvps will be requested and required and the meeting will be set up with social distancing protocols in place. **CARRIED**

Ann Harbridge will communicate this information to the community of faith. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa/John Neff will find a facilitator for the conversation.

Gary Clark led the group in prayer.

Kara McKluskie expressed her thanks and appreciation for the work of the commission, acknowledging that it is hard work and praying for a peaceful conversation. Corresponding members and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa left the meeting.

## **New Business**

1. Listing of St. John's UC, Elmvale manse

**MOTION:** Judy Chalmers / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council give its consent to the request of the Board of Trustees of St. John's United Church, Elmvale pastoral charge:

1) to the listing of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Plan 299, pt Lot 5 to 6, Plan 335 Lot 7 and the municipal address of which is 23 Yonge St. S. Elmvale, ON, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of St. John's United Church, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, as Seller, and Remax Crosstown Realty Inc. Brokerage Inc., as Brokerage, the terms of which are outlined in the Listing Agreement. List price: \$379,900.

**CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:** Regular meeting Thursday, July 9, 2020 by Zoom Call - 9:00 AM

Worship: Kate Crawford

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge