To access a link in this newsletter, please press CTRL + mouse click on the highlighted link.

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| [*View this email in your browser*](https://mailchi.mp/985f519a6339/highlights-of-the-fall-regional-meeting?e=f8764f8451)*Next Deadline for submissions: October 23*[*Forward this to a friend to sign up for this newsletter.*](https://wowrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b&id=65ceaaaf22) |

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| ****Regional Council Meeting Highlights!********October 15 – October 18, 2020**** |

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| Hello Delegates!    These highlights are prepared to help representatives share the story of the regional council meeting with their home community of faith! Make plans now to update your community of faith at the first opportunity! |

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| **Theme**President Gary Clark’s theme for the meeting was **Honey from the Rock** drawn from Psalm 81:11 where God’s care is expressed with this powerful imagery. **Honey from the Rock**The theme was woven through the reports in the workbook and the worship services led by the worship team of Kate Ballagh-Steeper, Sydney Elias and Brad Inglis with support from the singers of Trinity United Church, Kitchener. Linnea Good’s song, **Honey from the Rock**, set the theme to music.. |
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| **DECISIONS**We thank Parliamentarian, Tim Reaburn, for his assistance in our business proceedings. |

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| **Affirm** |

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| Western Ontario Waterways is an Affirming regional council! The decision to adopt the Action Plan was passed by a majority of more than 99%! Many thanks to the tri-regional Affirming Network who prepared the material and led the presentation! Now we focus on how we live into this plan as a regional council ensuring that sexual orientation or gender identity are not barriers to participation. |

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| **Remit**The regional council endorsed the proposed change to Section 10 of Polity in the Basis of Union to replace the words “men and women” to read: The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.The pre-meeting webinar, [**Affirming Our Communities, Affirming Our Faith**](https://youtu.be/ICeiHo2O2Bc), can be found on the regional council’s YouTube channel. The webinar focuses on the distinction between sexual orientation and gender identity. Sexual orientation is who one finds attractive; gender identity is how one sees oneself. |

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| **Pronouns**Many, many thanks to the members of the regional council who added their pronouns when they introduced themselves! This is one way to embrace our Affirming mandate! |

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| **Equity Monitor**We thank Deborah Deavu who served as Equity Monitor. Deborah will review her insights with the Executive to help us learn from her experience and develop a position description for this role. The Equity Monitor is attentive to how privilege is empowering some and disempowering others. |

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| **Finances**A big thanks to Treasurer, Brent Caslick, who reviewed the 2019 budget and shared the principles behind the 2021 budget that was adopted. In 2021, the regional council will use reserve funds to invest in ministry. It is anticipated that the reserves will increase by a similar amount through the regional council’s interest income and share in the legacy of disbanding congregations.Additionally, in the [**pre-meeting financial webinar**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgZWl5f9w2U&t=4s), also found on the YouTube channel, funds have been established for specific purposes. This information will soon be added to the website with grants available by 2021. |

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| **CELEBRATIONS**The regional council had the privilege of ordaining: |

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| **Rebekah Duncan, Gail Fricker and Kellie McComb** |

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| in a [**Celebration of Ministry service**](https://youtu.be/UIYvZD6qDtQ) (now on YouTube) hosted by Avondale United Church, Stratford. Avondale United Church was also home for President Gary Clark, Secretary Rod Coates, Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, and Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa throughout the meeting. The congregation’s gracious hospitality was much appreciated. Special thanks to their worship leaders, Rev. Keith Reynolds, Rev. Kathi Urbasik-Hindley and Dan Van Winden, music director, and soloist, Susan Walker, and the Avondale United Church choir for sharing their gifts with the regional council.  |

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| **We give thanks for the dedicated service of the following retirees:** |

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| **Scott Boughner, Janet Eriksen, Mary Fletcher, Keith Lockhart and George Russell** |

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| The candidates and retirees were celebrated with video clips and PowerPoint presentations. |

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| **Jubilands are those celebrating 50 years or more since the date of their ordination. We honour the lifetime of service given by:**50 Years: **John Buttars, Donald Linkletter, Karl Sievert**55 Years: **Henrik Dykman**60 Years: ***Cecil Wittich***65 Years: ***Calvin Evans, George Moore, Lorne O’Neill*** |

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| **Your new President-Elect is .....**The regional council is DELIGHTED to welcome ***Mark Laird*** to the role of President-Elect. Mark’s acceptance speech spoke of his openness to responding to the church’s need, inspiring words that invite each of us to consider how we are doing that. |

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| **We give thanks for those who have joined the Executive & Commissions:** |

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| Executive: ***Terry Smith​, Heather Leffler​, Andrea Allan*** |

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| Covenant Commission: ***Margaret Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay*** |

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| Human Resources Commission: ***Douglas Hayward, Mel Spencer*** |

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| Mission and Discipleship Commission: ***Edith Coyle, Rodger Filsinger, Gail Fricker, Jenn Hind-Urquhart***There are still vacancies on the Covenant and Mission & Discipleship Commissions. If the presentations from these Commissions interested you, please fill out the [**Expressions of Interest**](https://wowrcucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WOWRC-Expressions-of-Interest-Received.pdf) form to go before the Executive.  |

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| **Remembering**With thanksgiving for the ministry they offered and for the witness they provided, the regional council remembered these ministers:  |

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| **Terry Fletcher, B. Jeanne Wright, Don Parr, David Chesney,Donald Pletsch, Ohane Sarmazian and Lester Phillips** |

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| and these congregations: |

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| ***Emmanuel United Church, Sebringville; Chatsworth United Church, Walters Falls United Church; Holland Centre United Church; Marsville United Church*** |

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| **Thank You  ●  Thank You  ●  Thank You  ●  Thank You** |

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| Thank you to all who attended! Over 200 people registered and more than 150 people attended the five business sessions. Most attended several sessions. Thank you for this generous gift of your time and for the blessing of your wisdom. It was a joy to be together! |

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| Special thanks to President Gary Clark for his leadership, to Secretary Rod Coates for his notetaking and to the regional council staff who were key to meeting preparation and operation! |

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| **Mission & Service is Up To Us** |

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| Thank-you for your offering, made at the Celebration of Ministry on Sunday, October 18 as part of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Meeting. The offering will go to [**Mission & Service**](http://www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca/), making possible even more programs and activities to transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. |

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| Mission & Service is Up To Us (that's you and me) |

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| If you were not able to offer your gift during the Celebration of Ministry, you may still do so here [**https://www.united-church.ca/donate**](https://www.united-church.ca/donate). |

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| **Let’s do this again!**As instructed, the Executive will plan a spring meeting. At this point, it appears that it will need to be a virtual meeting. Please be sure to send in your [**Feedback Form**](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/wow_feedback_form) by October 30th so we can incorporate your insights (also found on the Regional Council Meeting page). Mark your calendars now for **May 28, 2021** when the **Hon. Senator Murray Sinclair** will be meeting with Western Ontario Waterways, Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils with a focus on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to the Church! |

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| Blessings*,**Executive Minister, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (she/her)* |

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| *The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council newsletter welcomes submissions of upcoming events, regional news and educational opportunities. This is also the place to keep up-to-date on information from the regional office.* |

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| ****Connecting, Supporting, Transforming****Western Ontario Waterways Regional CouncilThe United Church of Canada |

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| [*Sign up for our newsletter.*](https://wowrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b&id=65ceaaaf22)***For information, contact Pretima:****pkukadia@united-church.ca****Our phone number is:****1-833-236-0280****Our mailing address is:****Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, UCC**PO Box 100**Carlisle, On L0R 1H0**Canada*[*Add us to your address book*](https://wowrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/vcard?u=3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b&id=65ceaaaf22)Copyright © 2020 Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, UCC, All rights reserved. |

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