

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

Thursday, September 10, 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, Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough (RDLM)

Regrets: Kate Crawford, Judy Chalmers

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 Worship: Ann offered an opening prayer.

Opening Agreements:

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 June 11, June 25, June 30, 2020 and July 9, July 21 and 29, 2020 as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Walters Falls disbursement of funds.
 - a) Funds from the sale of the property have been received.
 - b) John Neff reached out to previous treasurer 3 times since July inquiring about bank account and GIC, received a response on September 8. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa has sent a note indicating the funds are to be sent to the Regional Council.
 - c) Revisit the disbursement motion to keep in line with the Property Policy.
The commission concurred that the disbursements proceed as noted in the motion (July 9, 2020 Minutes); recognizing that the commission is fulfilling and enacting a

commitment made by a previous body, Northern Waters Presbytery. The Commission recognized that the disbursements agreed to are outside of current regional council property policy and are being grandfathered. The regional council property policy will be adhered to when considering future disbursements of property monies from WOWRC communities of faith.

2. Use of restricted funds (Presbytery or Regional) for meeting ministry personnel payroll and insurance premium hike. Should this be extended to the end of 2020?

MOTION Arthur Hills / Norm Eygenraam

That the end date noted in motions regarding use of restricted funds for meeting ministry personnel payroll and potential insurance premium hikes be changed to December 31, 2020.

CARRIED

MOTION Norm Eygenraam / Marg Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council authorizes communities of faith with funds restricted by either the previous presbytery or regional council to access these restricted funds, if needed, to cover payroll to December 31, 2020. The governing body's decision to access these funds to be communicated to the Covenant Commission via the respective staff. **CARRIED**

MOTION Arthur Hills / Sandy Loomis

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council authorizes communities of faith with funds restricted by either the previous presbytery or regional council to access these restricted funds, if needed, to cover 2020 insurance renewal premiums. The governing body's decision to access these funds to be communicated to the Covenant Commission on the form being used to report the use of restricted funds for payroll to December 31, 2020. **CARRIED.**

3. St. John's UC, Elmvale. Update on sale of Manse. Latest offer negotiated and approved by John and Sue (as per motion giving authority). John Neff reported that the resolution of consent has come in.
4. Massie UC
The Commission reviewed the draft letter prepared by Ann Harbridge to be sent to Massie UC. This initial letter will serve as advance notice of the facilitated conversation to be held, with further information to be forthcoming once date/times have been confirmed. John Neff will confirm date/times.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
Review PCS List – Document in Dropbox
 - a. Marsha Roberts to Pine River United Church beginning October 1, 2020 for a vacancy.
 - b. Laurie O'Leary to Huron Shores UC beginning Aug 15, 2020 while minister is on leave.

- c. Greg Smith-Young to Fergus: Melville UC – extend supervision until end of September 2020 while minister extends leave.
- d. Ed Laksmanis to Kemble, Sarawak, and Zion Pastoral Charge beginning January 1, 2021 when pastoral charge becomes vacant.
- e. Mary Boland to St. Mary’s UC beginning August 16, 2020 while minister is on leave.
- f. Thank Tom Dunbar for serving as PCS for Trinity UC, Listowel and Atwood UC. They have new ministry personnel

Sandy Loomis inquired about the status of Paisley United Church. John Neff is filling in as pastoral charge supervisor. Paisley is determining their future.

John Neff noted that, due to the pandemic, the commission will need to revisit some things that had a “due date”, ie: communities of faith covenanting with the regional council, living faith story deadlines.

2. Documents

- a. Annan-Woodford pastoral charge – 2019 Annual Report
- b. Grace UC, Tavistock – 2019 Annual Report, Financial Viability Worksheet (as part of CEBA loan reporting)
- c. Pine River UC – CoF profile (Financial Viability, Demographics, Living Faith Story, Real Property worksheets). Agrees with the recommendation that Pine River UC is viable to call/appoint a minister up to category E for 40 hours per week.
- d. Angus UC – Tenant Eviction Notice
- e. Highland UC, Flesherton – Resolution of Consent – Trustees for the sale of Flesherton United Church building. This was approved on July 29, 2020.

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

New Business

1. Best Practices for PCS’s in going to meetings. John Neff circulated notes from Nora Saunders, General Secretary.
Regional Council staff rules. If doing regional council work you should not meet face to face but online.
2. Those who have indicated interest in serving another new term on the Commission should fill out an expression of interest.

Ann Harbridge offered a blessing to close the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting Thursday, October 8, 2020 by Zoom Call - 9:00 AM
Worship by: Thom McDonough
Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge