

REGION 8 TRANSITION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
(Supporting, Connecting, Transforming)

The Region 8 Transition Commission was called to meet on Monday, September 11, 2018 at Knox United Church, Paisley.

PRESENT

Executive Minister	Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa	Hamilton Conference Representatives	Gord Dunbar Heather Leffler Tim Reaburn
Presbytery Representatives	Rod Coates (Bruce) Margaret Krauter (Northern Waters) Mark Laird (Waterloo) Laurie O’Leary (Huron- Perth)	London Conference Representative Executive Assistant	Sue Duliban

Regrets: Brent Caslick, Martha Pedoniquotte

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Laurie O’Leary called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM and opened with a reading entitled “Living in the Present”, from the Joyce Rupp book, Inviting God In. She concluded with a brief prayer.

2. Review/Approve Minutes of July 9, 2018

Noting no further comments, Laurie declared the minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting approved by consensus.

3. Report to Presbyteries

Sue Duliban briefly presented a draft PowerPoint presentation created by Region 9 which, with some minor changes, can be used by all of Regions 7, 8 & 9 to communicate highlights of the transition work to each of the presbyteries within their regions. Cheryl-Ann described the presentation as supporting the Region 8 purpose of Supporting, Connecting, Transforming.

Commissioners present provided input to the draft presentation. Sue will send it out such that it can be tailored to the target audiences when the information is shared with our respective presbyteries.

Heather Leffler provided an update from the UCW fall meeting she recently attended, including some of the challenges and issues for their current organizational structure and networks they are addressing during the ongoing transition. Cheryl-Ann and Sue will ask Kathy Douglas (Minister, Faith Formation) to arrange a meeting of the UCW executive to engage them and discuss further.

4. Staffing and Job Descriptions

Tim Reaburn noted that there are many names that congregations will recognize with the staff currently appointed within the three regions. It was also noted that Region 8 positions are now fully staffed.

5. Newsletters

Margaret Krauter questioned whether there was a fully-populated mailing list for our presbyteries and congregations, and it was agreed that we would explore methods for expanding the distribution. Some additional comments and discussion were provided about the last Region 8 newsletter content and distribution.

6. Region 8 Gathering – October 20 at Mount Forest United Church

Cheryl-Ann reported on behalf of the planning group for the upcoming Region 8 gathering event. She said that Betty Pries will be the facilitator (Credence & Co.) for the afternoon. Registration forms will be issued shortly, and Region 8 staff will be invited to attend the event.

7. Governance Structure

Laurie stated that the October 10th transition commission meeting will be held at the conference office and will deal with governance in detail at that time.

Cheryl-Ann said that the mission support grant application requests should already be with presbytery secretaries, although there might be a few missing due to the nature of transition. Cheryl-Ann said that grants should be considered thoughtfully for the first year, with focus on engagement rather than deadlines. Tim Reaburn said this year's Mission Support grants have been treated flexibly given the nature of the transition.

Rod Coates noted the importance of having governance sorted out with respect to engaging existing volunteers' participation in the new structure. Tim said that in his conversations he has asked people to vision themselves in a new role within the new church, with the possibility of something they have not previously considered. He noted that a business offers training and skills to its employees, which gives them a benefit to belonging.

8. New Business

Laurie said that she had set up a Facebook page [Region 8 United Church of Canada], but is quite happy to relinquish the role of maintaining it to someone else. There was some additional discussion about establishing some protocols around access and permissions for who can comment and post. Cheryl-Ann noted that discussions have taken place around the options of independent websites (Region 7, 8 & 9) with shared joint information, or having independent websites with links.

There was some discussion about naming the region and engagement in the naming process, with a suggestion that we present this at the October 20th meeting. Tim Reaburn's suggestion of "Grand Saugeen Nottawasaga" was well received.

Margaret asked about a church closing which is to take place in June 2019, to which Cheryl-Ann said the disbanding would follow the new regional policy, which is still in draft format, and some additional discussion will be required to sort out details.

9. Closing

The meeting closed at 11:50 AM.

10. Upcoming Meetings

- October 10, 10 – 4 at Hamilton Conference Office (Region 7, 8 & 9)
- October 20 (Commission to remain after the gathering in Mount Forest)
- November 8 (Conference Call)
- November 29/30 (Best Western Stone Ridge Conference Centre) (Region 7, 8 & 9)

Signature of Chair

Signature of Secretary