

REGION 8 TRANSITION COMMISSION MEETING
Friday, November 30, 2018
(Supporting, Connecting, Transforming)

The Region 8 Transition Commission was called to meet during the previously-scheduled joint meeting of the Region 7, 8 & 9 transition commissions, held at the Best Western Plus Stoneridge Inn & Conference Centre, 6675 Burtwistle Lane, London on Friday, November 30, 2018.

PARTICIPANTS

Presbytery	Rod Coates (Bruce)	Hamilton Conference	Gord Dunbar
Representatives	Ann Harbridge (Northern Waters)	Representatives	Heather Leffler
	Margaret Krauter (Northern Waters)	London Conference	Brent Caslick
	Mark Laird (Waterloo)	Representative	
	Laurie O’Leary (Huron-Perth)		

1. Call to Order

Laurie O’ Leary called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM.

2. Approval of Position Description for Position of Minister, Right Relations and Indigenous Justice

Moved by: Marg Krauter

Seconded by: Brent Caslick

That the position description for the Position of Minister, Right relations and Indigenous Justice be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

3. Ministry Sharing Agreement

Moved by: Ann Harbridge

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

That the ministry sharing agreement be approved as amended and that Laurie O’Leary will be our designated governing signature to the agreement. **CARRIED**

4. Marriage Licence Registration – Province of Ontario

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Gord Dunbar

That the transition commission for Regional Council 8 take the following actions:

1. Adopt the marriage licence registration policy found at Appendix A;
2. Adopt the processes regarding marriage licence registration found at Appendix B; and
3. Name Sue Duliban, executive assistant to the Executive Minister, as the governing official for the purposes of marriage licence registration within the Province of Ontario.

CARRIED

5. Name for Region 8

With respect to a name for the region, Gord Dunbar summarized the discussion held with Joyce Johnson, Designated Lay Minister candidate from Cape Croker First Nation, whose Ojibwe tradition speaks to pathways and movement across land rather than geographic boundaries. The concept of waterways is consistent with indigenous culture, representing movement of people and “many waters” would be consistent with their connection to the land. Commissioners offered several additional comments about the region’s name being associated with an identifiable geographic area.

Moved by: Heather Leffler

Seconded by: Marg Krauter

That the name of Region 8 be “Western Ontario Waterways”

CARRIED

6. Correspondence

Laurie O’Leary provided two items of correspondence she had received:

1. A Philanthropy and Stewardship letter reminds us to consider how philanthropy and stewardship ought to be included in our governance.
2. Parkminster United (Waterloo) has request consideration of funding for two of its youth members participating in the Two Countries One World programme. It was agreed that this needed to be deferred pending more information about our available funds.

7. Future meetings

It was agreed that beginning in January we would meet the third Wednesday of each month. At Laurie O’Leary’s invitation, it was agreed that the January meeting would be held in Exeter.

8. Aboriginal gathering – January 11-13

The Ontario & Quebec Aboriginal Congregations and Great Lakes Waterways Presbytery Implementation Gathering will be held in Hamilton January 11-13, and each region is invited to send a representative to this event.

It was agreed that Heather Leffler will be our region’s representative, with Brent Caslick as a second representative if space allows.

9. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 11:30 AM.

Next Meeting

- January 16th at Exeter United Church.

Signature of Chair

Signature of Secretary

APPENDIX A: Marriage licence registration policy – regional councils within the Province of Ontario

This marriage policy applies to all regional councils of The United Church of Canada within the Province of Ontario.

The Regional Council will name a “governing official” as defined by the Marriage Office, with all related responsibilities as outlined by the Province of Ontario.

Permanent licences

Those eligible to hold a permanent licence to conduct a wedding within the Province of Ontario are:

1. Ministry personnel in a covenanted relationship with a ministry recognized by a regional council of The United Church of Canada within the Province of Ontario.

Temporary licences

Those eligible to hold a temporary licence to conduct a wedding within the Province of Ontario are:

1. Ministry personnel in good standing who are not in an on-going covenanted relationship with a ministry recognized by a regional council of The United Church of Canada.
2. Ministry personnel from other regional councils within The United Church of Canada who are in good standing and reside outside Ontario.
3. Ministry personnel from other communions which are recognized by the Canadian Council of Churches or the World Council of Churches.

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APPENDIX B: Marriage licence procedures for all regional councils within the Province of Ontario

All procedures will be consistent with the policies of the Marriage Office. These procedures are common to the regional councils within the Province of Ontario.

Permanent licences

1. All ministry personnel in a covenanted relationship with a community of faith will be authorized by the regional councils to apply for a marriage licence. There is no need to check the standing of each minister because they would not be called or appointed without a credentials check with the Office of Vocation.
2. A covenanted relationship for those not called or appointed to a community of faith will consist of a joint statement from the ministry personnel and a community of faith indicating a mutual agreement that conducting weddings is part of the duties of the ministry personnel. Ministry personnel will have a valid police records check in accordance with General Council policy and have completed any other training required by General Council policy, currently boundaries and racial justice training.
3. The regional council will periodically determine whether a covenanted relationship continues to exist between a ministry personnel and a community of faith.
4. All marriages shall be registered in a marriage register kept by a United Church of Canada community of faith or regional council recognized ministry.

Notes:

Re #1: This language does away with having to make special requests for non-ordained ministry personnel. If a minister is called or appointed, they get a marriage licence automatically as part of their ministry.

Re #2: This language eliminates the use of the term Voluntary Associate Minister, but does not preclude its use if a regional council wished to use the term.

Temporary licences

1. Ministry personnel without a permanent licence for conducting weddings will contact the marriage registration governing official requesting a temporary licence.
2. The governing official will confirm the ministry personnel's standing by checking the Office of Vocation Church Hub.
3. Ministry personnel requesting a temporary licence shall supply a letter of support from the ministry personnel serving the United Church of Canada community of faith in which the wedding is taking place.
4. For "off-site", non-church weddings, ministry personnel shall provide a letter from a United Church of Canada community of faith whose marriage register is being used to register the marriage.
5. All marriages shall be registered in a marriage register kept by a United Church of Canada community of faith or regional council recognized ministry.

6. Temporary licences for weddings to be conducted on the premises of other denominations shall be requested through the governing official of the other denomination.
7. The maximum number of temporary registrations to be authorized for any individual in any calendar year is three. Those wishing to conduct more than three weddings per calendar year will be required to enter into a covenanted relationship with a community of faith or regional council recognized ministry.
8. Ministry personnel applying for a temporary licence must have a valid police records check in accordance with General Council policy and have completed any other training required by General Council policy, currently boundaries and racial justice training.
9. Ministry personnel from another denomination applying for a temporary licence must have a police records check valid within the last six months.
10. Whatever personal record the officiant makes of the event, it must be entered into the marriage register of a congregation according to #4 or #5, above.
11. Ministry personnel of a denomination which is a member church of the Canadian Council of Churches or the World Council of Churches will provide a letter of standing from their denomination of accountability. The ministry personnel would be subject to #1 and 3-10 above.

Notes:

Previous Conference policies/procedures have permitted retired Designated Lay Ministers to apply for temporary licences. Because the One Order of Ministry remit failed, DLMs who retire continue as lay people. Thus they are not eligible to be licensed because they are not in an appointment.

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