

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

Thursday, October 8, 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, Judy Chalmers, Ann Harbridge, Sandy Loomis, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Thom McDonough, 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 Worship:** Thom McDonough shared a Cameron Trimble story about Margaret Mead, a short reflection and prayer.

**Opening Agreements:**

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** to receive Wanda Bates from Erin United Church, Donna Metcalf from Ballinafad United Church, along with Rev. Felicia Urbanski serving both forenamed churches; Sue Campbell, Karen Ross, Peter Kupfer, Cheryl Fisher from Trinity United Church, Elmira as corresponding members to this meeting.

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 September 10, 2020 as circulated.

**Business Arising**

1. Massie UC

After some discussion, it was agreed to refer the matter to the WOWRC Executive. Given the numerous discussions that have taken place, the conclusion reached is there is no middle ground. Background information on the matter will be provided to Executive. Kate Crawford took the chair, while Ann Harbridge prepared the motion.

**MOTION Thom McDonough/ Norm Eygenraam**

Given that the covenant commission has communicated with Massie United Church with requests to regularize the employment of Michael Henkel;  
 And given that two meetings have been held with the congregation to explain the requirements to be met in order to regularize Michael Henkel's employment;  
 And given that correspondence with deadlines for action, addressed to the congregation and Michael Henkel have not been responded to,  
 The covenant commission, having exhausted all of its options, requests that the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive take responsibility for the issue of Massie United Church's non compliance with United Church of Canada policy. **CARRIED**

### Consent Docket

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the Consent Docket #1.

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
  - a. Harry Disher to First UC, Waterloo from September 8 to October 1, 2020 for a vacancy and until Harry is appointed.
  - b. John Benham to Three Willows UC, Guelph beginning October 12, 2020 for a vacancy.
  - c. Candice Bist to Shelburne-Primrose pastoral charge from Oct. 9 to Nov 6, 2020 while current PCS is away
  - d. Thank Bonnie Holiday for her work as PCS with Brucefield while ministry personnel, Randy Banks was away. He is now returned to work.
  - e. Thank Kate Ballagh-Steeper for her work as PCS with Londesborough and Auburn Pastoral Charge while current PCS Randy Banks was away. He is now returned to work.
  - f. Trinity UC, Annan will need pastoral charge supervisor. John will look for one. (Thom)

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the Consent Docket #2.

2. Documents
  - a. Zion UC, New Hamburg – new governance structure  
 Questions raised about governance structure as presented; Kate Crawford observed it seems no one appears to be elected into positions. Question: ultimate responsibility, where does it lie? Human resources and trustees don't have delegated authority to act, only authorized to advise.

The commission asked John Neff to communicate questions to Zion about their new governance structure, revise and return to the commission.

Wanda Bates, Felicia Urbanski, Donna Metcalfe joined the meeting. Ann Harbridge returned to chair.

### New Business

1. Amalgamation Proposal of Erin and Ballinafad UCs (**Stated Hour – 9:30 am**)

The two congregations were commended for having worked on the amalgamation with great sensitivity. The commission offered congratulations to all and many blessings as they continue their ministry together.

**MOTION** Norm Eygenraam / Arthur Hills

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Covenant Commission approves the amalgamation proposal, as per the documents presented, of Erin United Church and Ballinafad United Church. **CARRIED**

Wanda Bates added that there will be some items available from Ballinafad (Bibles, hymn books) should Saugeen First Nations be interested in receiving them. John Neff offered to pick up and hold these items. He will provide a list to Saugeen, so they can self determine what they need.

Wanda Bates thanked the commission for their support and noted that John Neff has been a great help during a difficult, emotional time.

Wanda Bates, Felicia Urbanski and Donna Metcalfe left the meeting.

2. Trinity UC, Elmira: Redevelopment and Vendor Take Back Mortgage. **(Stated Hour - 10am)**

Sandra Pember, Karen Ross, Cheryl Fisher, Peter Kupfer, Sue Campbell and Michael Wright joined the meeting.

The Covenant Commission commended Trinity, Elmira for their foresight and hard work in continuing their ministry.

Sandra Pember, Karen Ross, Cheryl Fisher, Peter Kupfer, Sue Campbell and Michael Wright left the meeting.

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Norm Eygenraam

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Covenant Commission approves the Trinity United Church, Elmira Redevelopment plan and Vendor Take Back Mortgage as submitted.

**CARRIED**

3. Presentation for the Regional meeting Presentation at Regional Council meeting. Brief review – will highlight that pastoral charge supervisors. Ann Harbridge hopes to be able to present, if she is unable to present, Kate Crawford will do so.

4. Disbandment of Marsville UC.

Note: Marsville disbanded (unofficially) in 2018. Most members joined their sister church Mimosa UC. Funds have all been distributed based on the approval of the former Northern Waters Presbytery Congregational Life Commission. There was an issue which took a long time to resolve and prevented the formal disbandment from happening. This has been resolved now. A motion to formally disband was put forward and approved on September 29, 2020.

**MOTION** Thom McDonough / Judy Chalmers that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disband Marsville United Church effective September 29, 2020 and accepts that the disbursement of funds had been done according to the approval of the former Northern Waters Presbytery Congregational Life Commission.

**CARRIED**

Note: Marsville has not been meeting since 2018

5. Change next meeting to November 5. It was agreed to change the date as John has a conflict.

Ann offered a blessing. Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** Regular meeting Thursday, November 5, 2020 by Zoom Call - 9:00 AM

Worship by: Thom

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge