

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

Thursday, November 5, 2020, **9:00 am**, Zoom Call

Roster: (9) Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Kate Crawford (Rev.), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay

Staff Support: Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant
Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Present: Ann Harbridge (DLM), Thom McDonough (RDLM), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Sandy Loomis

Regrets: Kate Crawford, Matthew Lindsay

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 reflection on darkness; we are walking in the dark (with covid) and should be mindful on how it is affecting us. But we can provide the light of love, compassion to our fellow travellers. Thom closed with 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 October 8, 2020 as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Corrections to minutes.
 - a. 200729 - motion for the sale of the church at Ballinafad. The motion 200729 reads “.... following the amalgamation between two congregations”. This should be changed to “in anticipation of the amalgamation”

- b. 200709 the motion to appoint a PCS to Londesborough and Auburn should read “to Londesborough and to Auburn pastoral charges.”
2. Should we have a blanket motion that if John cannot find a pastoral charge supervisor that he will automatically be accepted as the PCS for churches that need a PCS for a meeting?

MOTION Arthur Hills / Norm Eygenraam

That John Neff be given the authority to appoint a pastoral charge supervisor should one be required by a community of faith between meetings of the Covenant Commission.

CARRIED

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
 - a. Gerry Hofstetter to Paisley UC effective October 21, 2020.
 - b. Thank Laurie O’Leary for serving as PCS at Huron Shores UC, Grand Bend. The minister is returned to work.
 - c. Greg Smith-Young will continue as pastoral charge supervisor to Alma United Church while admittand Young Seo is appointed to January 31, 2022.
 - d. Thom McDonough to Massie UC as pastoral charge supervisor beginning November 3, 2020 and thank Marg Krauter for serving as PCS.
Ann notes Thom feels need someone to accompany him to any meetings, do not hesitate to reach out.
Trinity Annan calling a minister at Nov 16 Thom notes
2. Documents
 - a. Calvary Memorial UC, Kitchener CoF Profile
that the covenant commission of western Ontario waterways regional council receives for information the community of faith profile from Calvary Memorial United church, Kitchener and approves the recommendation that Calvary Memorial United church, Kitchener community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week.
 - b. Moorefield UC – Updated CoF Profile
hat the covenant commission of western Ontario waterways regional council receives for information the community of faith profile from Moorefield United Church and approves the recommendation that Moorefield United Church_community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 10 hours per week.

Ann Harbridge noted Moorefield/Fordwich/Palmerston are working within a covenant of agreement.
 - c. Parkview UC, Stratford – CoF Profile
that the covenant commission of western Ontario Waterways regional council receives for information the community of faith profile from Parkview United church, Stratford and approves the recommendation that Parkview United Church, Stratford community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week.

- d. Wesley UC, Saugeen First Nations – receive for information the 2018 & 2019 Annual Report, 2019 Budget. Tim Hackborn, Community Capacity Development Coordinator (liaison for Indigenous communities), has been in contact with Saugeen First Nations, following the fire. And John Neff has also been with Tim to be a face of the regional council with the board. As part of that, asked them if they had any documentation they could submit, so the commission could start to get to know them.

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

New Business

1. Ballinafad UC – Trustees request to reduce asking price on listing from \$659,000 to \$629,000.

MOTION Margaret Bakker / Norm Eygenraam

That the Covenant Commission approves Ballinafad United Church's request to reduce the listed asking price of \$659,000 to \$629,000. **CARRIED**

2. Covenants with the Regional Council

President Gary made an interesting addition to the Covenant wording when he did the Covenant with UCW. ... will make decisions with, not for, communities of faith, [in good standing].

There may be times we make decision for CoFs if they are not in good standing.

The Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus to change the covenant document to read, ".....will make decisions with, not for, communities of faith (in good standing)".

3. St. Andrew's UC, Bayfield

- a. Looking for a facilitated meeting of their congregation and a listening team.

John Neff suggested that a two-person listening team be established and a facilitator, from outside of the community of faith, be provided to chair/facilitate St. Andrew's next congregational meeting. The listening team will do interviews, ask questions for clarification, offer recommendations. St. Andrew's is going through some struggles limiting their ability to govern effectively.

The Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus that John Neff and Ann Harbridge offer themselves as listening team for Bayfield and that John Neff facilitate the congregational meeting.

4. Knox UC, Ayr – Technology support grant.

MOTION Thom McDonough / Arthur Hills

The Covenant Commission approves Knox United Church, Ayr's technology support grant request. **CARRIED**

5. Sale of St. John's UC, Flesherton. Confirmation of sale.

For information only: sale is confirmed.

6. Grand Valley Institute for Women – Regionally Recognized Ministry

Asked if approve as recognized ministry in regional council. Arthur Hills spoke in favour of the request. Ann Harbridge will send a note to the Executive however, asking for clarity on whose work it is to recognize outside ministries and covenant with them. The WOW UCW was approved

as a community of faith by the Executive and it was felt this work should be that of the commission.

MOTION Arthur Hills / Sandy Loomis

The Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission recognizes Bridges of Canada Inc. as a regionally recognized ministry, and approves their appointment of a UCC ministry personnel to Grand Valley Institute for Women. A covenant will be entered into with Bridges of Canada Inc. **CARRIED**

7. Rockwood UC – Sale of property and demolition of house

The Council of Rockwood United Church is seeking the Covenant Commission's approval to sell their current parking lot at 112 Harris St., demolish the house at 109 Harris St., develop the property into a new parking lot, pay the mortgage on the property and use some of the funds to make the church accessible.

MOTION Norm Eygenraam / Judy Chalmers

The Covenant Commission approves the listing for sale of the Rockwood United Church parking lot at 112 Harris Street, Rockwood. **CARRIED**

The commission requests further information and clarity as to whether any monies realized would be restricted funds, and requests a proposal on the costs to demolish the house at 107 Harris St., develop the property into a new parking lot, pay the mortgage on the property and the funds required to make the church accessible. The council is welcome to attend a covenant commission meeting to provide verbal clarification and/or provide a written proposal.

8. Southampton UC – Living Faith Story and Financial Viability. Looking to become a HUB church.

The Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus that Southampton United Church is in a good location to be HUB church. (Southampton is the only church who has approached Rural Connect about being a HUB church).

9. Dundalk UC – Sale of manse and use of funds for 2nd phase

MOTION Margaret Bakker / Thom McDonough

The Covenant Commission approves the listing for sale of the property at 15 Nixon Street, Dundalk, ON, for an asking price of Four hundred and thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$438,000), utilizing Bob Gillies as realtor at a commission rate of 5% plus HST (5.65%), possession immediately on closing. **CARRIED**

The commission advises Dundalk UC that the use of funds for completion of the second phase of the accessibility project of the Dundalk United Church will not be approved until further information and a proposal is received. The Commission will also require an up to date community of faith profile before approval is given for the spending of any monies received from the potential sale.

10. Terms for members

Name	Ministry Personnel (MP) Lay (L)	Term
Ann Harbridge	Chair, MP	2021
Sandy Loomis	L	2021
Tom McDonough	L	2021
Kate Crawford	MP	2022
Margaret Bakker	L	2023
Judy Chalmers	L	2023
Norm Eygenraam	L	2023
Arthur Hills	L	2023
Matthew Lindsay	L	2023

11. Availability for 7 pm meetings

Ann Harbridge	Yes
Sandy Loomis	
Thom McDonough	
Kate Crawford	Prefer not
Marg Bakker	Preferred
Judy Chalmers	Maybe (Tues or Fri better)
Norm Eygenraam	Prefer as is
Arthur Hills	Yes
Matthew Lindsay	Only
Sue Duliban	
John Neff	Yes

John Neff suggested that the governance handbook be changed to include, under membership, that meeting times be re-evaluated to include all members, when new members are appointed to commissions. This suggestion to be passed on to Executive.

After brief review of the availability list, it was agreed that the Covenant Commission will now meet monthly on Thursday evening, 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Norm Eygenraam offered a thank you to Ann for the great presentation she did at the WOW regional council meeting on the Covenant Commission's behalf.

Ann offered a blessing. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting Thursday, December 10, 2020 by Zoom Call – 7-8:30 pm

Worship by: Thom McDonough

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge