

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

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 7:00 pm, 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), Sandy Loomis, Thom McDonough (RDLM), Kate Crawford (Rev.), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, 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

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. Moorefield United church

Since there were questions about financial viability with Palmerston, Moorefield, and Fordwich, it may be best to await documentation from all 3 before approval is giving about a new search. Our last meeting on November 5th we approved Moorefield for category F at 10 hours per week. (Fordwich has decided to opt out of the agreement).

2. Ballinafad UC – 2nd reduction in listing price. New listing price - \$589,000.

Motion Kate Crawford / Norm Eygenraam

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the reduction of the listing price for the Ballinafad United Church to \$510,000 And approve the sale of Ballinafad United church, concession 8 Part lot 32, Halton Hills as per the Resolution Giving Consent received. **Carried**

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
 - a. Appoint John Benham – Three Willows United Church, Guelph. John will continue as PCS until Feb 28, 2021 as the minister's leave is extended.
 - b. John appointed Norm Eygenraam as PCS to Clifford Pastoral Charge for their meeting on November 30, 2020
 - c. Gerry Hofstetter to Allenford-Park Head Pastoral charge beginning January 1, 2021. Will be vacant.

2. Documents
 - a. Three Willows UC – receive for information the CEBA reporting and Financial Viability Worksheet
 - b. Hensall UC – Receive for information the CoF Profile
2 documents have been received. The initial document was not a complete profile so more information was requested. The second document is supplemental to the first. They are not looking to call a ministry personnel at this time. They are using pulpit supply and will look at their future viability to call a ministry personnel. They have been referred to Diane Blanchard, Minister for Pastoral Relations to ensure they are within the pulpit supply policy.
 - c. Georgian Shores UC, Owen Sound – Annual Self-Assessment
 - d. Bluevale UC – Use of restricted funds report (Covid relief)
 - e. Grace UC, Thornbury – CoF Profile, Self-Assessment, Annual Report (to be lifted from Consent Docket and dealt with at next meeting)

MOTION Name / Name that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees with the recommendation of Thornbury: Grace Pastoral Charge community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to ~~Category F (14+)~~ for 40 hours per week. (They are revisiting this after news of their minister requesting a change in pastoral relations. The update should come before the meeting).

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

New Business

1. St. Paul's UC, Midland HUB portable units upgrade and install at Trinity Centennial, Rosemont – Invoices (budget spreadsheet in dropbox).

2. Dundalk UC
 - a. Sale of Manse
Motion Arthur Hills / Marg Bakker
That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council gives its consent:
 - (1) To the SALE of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Lt 10 Blk Z PI 480 Dundalk Except Pt 4 17R2554 and the municipal address of which is 15 Nixon Street, Dundalk, Ontario, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Dundalk United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller, and Charlene Hodges, as Buyer, dated the 1st day of December, 2020, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Purchaser: Charlene Hodges

Sale Price: \$435,000

Deposit: \$10,000

Balance: \$425,000

Conditions:

- a. This Offer is conditional upon the Buyer arranging, at the Buyer's own expense, a new first Mortgage, calculated semi-annually not in advance, including principal and interest, at current rates;
- b. The Seller represents and warrants that the chattels and fixtures as included in this Agreement of Purchase and Sale will be in good working order and free from all liens and encumbrances on completion. The Parties agree that this representation and warranty shall survive and not merge on completion of this transaction, but apply only to the state of the property at completion of this transaction.
- c. The Buyer shall have the right to view the subject property 2 further times before completion date.
- d. The Seller agrees to maintain the property in the same condition as it was upon the initial inspection by the buyer. Snow removal, lawn and garden upkeep,
- e. repairs to included chattels and fixtures as necessary, and all other normal maintenance requirements to be completed at the Seller's expense until completion date.
- f. The Seller further agrees to leave the property in good condition and to remove all chattels not included in this transaction, and refuse from the property on or before closing.
- g. The Seller further agrees to stop all showings immediately from acceptance of this offer and to not review any future offers that may be submitted during the conditional period.

Irrevocability: 10 PM, December 22, 2020

(2) To the following disposition of the proceeds arising from the transaction:
That the net proceeds of the said Real Property to be held by the Trustees of Dundalk United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Dundalk Pastoral Charge, in trust for the use and benefit of the congregation of Dundalk United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada."

(3) The Real Property referred to in the above resolution is within the bounds of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. **Carried**

- b. Renovation and use of restricted funds

Motion Marg Bakker / Sandy Loomis

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council gives its consent to allow Dundalk United Church to use up to \$20,000 in the congregation's Capital Account to pay \$15,700 in outstanding bills which are owing, including utilities, property taxes on the manse and the 2020 denominational assessment. **Carried**

3. Use of restricted funds for staff salaries and insurance increases. Extend? Currently goes to December 31, 2020.

Motion Arthur Hills / Matthew Lindsay

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 June 30, 2021

The governing body's decision to access these funds to be communicated to the Covenant Commission via the respective staff. **Carried**

Motion Judy Chalmers / Thom McDonough

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 insurance renewal premiums to June 30, 2021. The governing body's decision to access these funds to be communicated to the Covenant Commission. **Carried**

4. Arkell UC – confirmation of funds received from arbitration are not restricted. Official confirmation requested.

Motion Sandy Loomis / Arthur Hills

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council confirms that the funds received by Arkell United Church from arbitration are not restricted.

Carried

5. Moorefield UC – Permission to use restricted funds (11,000 approximately of 300,000)

Motion Thom McDonough / Arthur Hills

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council gives its consent to allow Moorefield United Church to use restricted funds for the following expenses:

Caretaker honourarium	\$ 4,091.80
Secretary remuneration + ADP charges	\$ 1,857.14
Roof Repair	\$ 5,695.40 + 9695.4 = \$15,390.80

We recommend an evaluation as to whether the caretaker should be considered an employee. **Carried**

6. GS 81 Extension of Temporary Amendment of Bylaws re: Pastoral Relations; Temporary Amendment re: Congregational Annual Meeting

Motion Judy Chalmers / Kate Crawford

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees to the following recommendations passed by the Sub-Executive of the General Council:

1. temporarily suspend the requirement in section B.5.1 of The Manual for congregations or pastoral charges to hold an annual meeting; and
 2. temporarily amend the responsibility of the congregation or pastoral charge to make a decision on their annual draft budget by allowing the governing body of the congregation or pastoral charge to fulfil this responsibility where necessary, and where permitted by the regional council;
- with each of the foregoing to be in effect until June 30, 2021, subject to earlier cancellation or further extension by decision of the Executive or Sub-Executive of the General Council. **Carried**

7. Faithful Footprints Retrofit Grant – Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo Regional Council support required, as noted on first page of application.

Motion Sandy Loomis / Norm Eygenraam

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council supports Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo's Faithful Footprints Retrofit Grant Application.

Carried

Arthur declared a conflict of interest

8. Meeting times.

Ann recommends we meet day and evening alternatively in order accommodate people's schedules. **Agreed**

Next Meeting: Regular meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021 by Zoom Call - 9:00 AM

Worship by:

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Harbridge

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MOTION Name / Name that the Covenant Commission of western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

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