

Executive
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming
Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Roster: Andrea Allan, Gary Clark (President), Rod Coates (Secretary), Brent Caslick (Treasurer), Heather Leffler, Jessica Cottrell, Heather Davies, Joyce Johnston, Mark Laird (President-Elect), Tim Reaburn, Terry Smith, Micol Cottrell (Human Resources Commission), Bruce Dickson (Mission & Discipleship Commission), Norm Eygenraam (Covenant Commission)

Staff Support: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Minister), Sue Duliban (Executive Assistant)

Present: Andrea Allan, Gary Clark, Brent Caslick, Rod Coates, Jessica Cottrell, Micol Cottrell, Heather Davies, Bruce Dickson, Sue Duliban, Norm Eygenraam, Heather Leffler, Mark Laird, Tim Reaburn, Terry Smith, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

The Executive of the WOW Regional Council Executive was called to meet via Zoom teleconference on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Gary Clark called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Welcome and Constitution of the Meeting

Gary Clark declared the meeting constituted in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority invested in him by the first meeting of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

Acknowledging the Land

Gary Clark stated the following:

We acknowledge that we are gathered, live and worship on the traditional territory of many 1st Nations people like the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, the Neutral Nation and the Mississaugas of New Credit. We acknowledge that we who are the newcomers to this land have gained so much and our gain has come at a great cost to these peoples. We also acknowledge that we have gained much by the racist systems that have benefited those who are white, Christian and heterosexual. Our acknowledgement of the land and of the sin of racism is just the beginning of our journey toward reconciliation with the First Peoples of this land and all who have felt belittled in this culture. Our words must now be followed up with action.

We pray that the Holy Spirit breathe forgiveness, hope and love into all our relations and set us free from the ancient evil of bigotry.

Opening Worship

Gary Clark read an Advent Christmas story passage from Luke, citing the appearance of the angels to the shepherds and their subsequent journey to the manger in Bethlehem. The question was then asked: With whom do you most identify in this passage and why? After each person shared their thoughts, Gary Clark thanked everyone for their remarks and contributions.

Connecting/Meeting

Welcome New Members

To introduce new and returning members, questions were suggested for returning & new Executive members. Some common responses are listed as follows:

Returning Members – “What you have found rewarding?”

- Being involved & engaged with other levels of the wider church, seeing beyond just a congregation, and understanding the big picture.
- Continuing to work with previous presbytery/conference relationships and developing new ones.
- Seeing and participating in the evolution of new structures & connecting with wider church.
- Connections made, and relationship developed, with other Executive members.
- Being part of leadership in the wider church is inspiring and helps personal growth.
- Knowing that we are not alone but are part of a community.
- Decision-making and discernment about faithful actions – a sacred piece of the role.

New Members - "What made you volunteer?"

- A desire to be part of, and connected with, the broader church.

Review of Purpose, Values & Priorities

Gary Clark introduced this segment of the meeting by restating the regional council’s Purpose, Values & Priorities, as follows:

Regional Council Purpose Statement: Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

Values

- 1) Love unconditionally
- 2) Seek reconciliation
- 3) Risk courageously

Cheryl-Ann, responding to a request from Andrea Allen, provided an example of risking courageously, noting that it means supporting initiatives which might superficially be too difficult to take on. Brent Caslick observed the Executive had appointed Trustees for a disbanding congregation. Gary Clark noted the appointment of an equity monitor. Tim Reaburn said the best examples are social justice issues – e.g., Affirm vote at the recent regional council meeting.

Priorities

For Assessment

- 1) Communities of faith support, pastoral relations
- 2) Communications resources, support
- 3) Connecting/meeting

For Mission and Service

- 1) Children and Youth
- 2) Chaplaincy
- 3) Social Justice

Heather Leffler noted that M&S priority #1 also includes “faith formation”.

Review of Duties from WOW Governance Handbook

Gary Clark said the Governance Handbook identifies the role of Executives & Commissions. He read aloud the mandate of the Executive from the Handbook.

Gary then asked Commission representatives of the Executive to comment on the mandate and issues addressed by their commissions, to which Micol Cottrell, Bruce Dickson, and Norm Eygenraam each provided thumbnail sketches of their respective commission's work.

Consent Docket

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the September 16, 2020 and November 10, 2020 meeting be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Omnibus motion – December 16, 2020

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Executive take the following actions:

a) Camp Menesetung

....approve Camp Menesetung 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Margaret Bakker

Pat Bernard

Janet Bettles

Ross Carter

Sherri Clark

Steve Miners

This is based on the draft Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of September 17, 2020, the 2020 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

N.B. Updated Full Board Contact list to be provided in the New Year.

b) Chalmers Community Services Centre of The United Church of Canada

....approve Chalmers Community Services Centre of The United Church of Canada 2020-2021 Board of Directors

David Bocking

Randy Brant

Rory Labron

Matt McQuade

Steve Pierce

Bruce Ryan

Hillary Schlaht

Debbie Stanley

Eric Tuffnail

Janet Wood

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve By-Law No. 1 of

the incorporated ministry known as Chalmers Community Services Centre of The United Church of Canada.

These are based on the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of November 10, 2020, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

C. Correspondence received

1. Campus Chaplains Letter GCE Oct 2020 (for information)
2. TUCC donation for Wesley UC Saugeen First Nation (for information)
3. Mission & Service Results to Dec 4 20 (for information)

Gary Clark declared the consent docket approved by consensus.

Business Arising

1. Proposal 4: "M.U.C"

Moved by: Heather Davies

Seconded by: Mark Laird

That the Executive move to In Camera session.

Gary Clark declared this motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by: Bruce Dickson

Seconded by: Heather Davies

That the Executive move out of In Camera session.

Gary Clark declared this motion **CARRIED**.

Moved by: Mark Laird

Seconded by: Brent Caslick

That the Executive:

- 1) Order a Review of the congregation of M.U.C. to be undertaken in the first three months of 2021;
- 2) Direct the Executive Minister to secure the services of a trained Reviewer and to bring the name of that person to the Executive for appointment;
- 3) Cover all costs of the Review from the unrestricted reserve.

Gary Clark declared this motion **CARRIED**.

[15 Minute Break – 11:10 – 11:25]

2. Commission reports

a) Mission & Discipleship

Bruce Dickson said there was nothing to report for his Commission at this time.

b) Human Resources

Micol Cottrell mentioned that the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Team is seeking updated contact information for its Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) list.

c) Covenant

Norm Eygenraam reported that he had nothing to add to Ann Harbridge's Commission report, mentioning that he had just received his LLWL accreditation.

3. Business Arising from the Regional Council Meeting

a) Equity Monitor Report

Noting that the Equity Monitor report had been received, Gary Clark said that this feedback will be included as part of planning for the next regional council meeting. Cheryl-Ann suggested we record that the report be received with thanks, taking note of the equity monitor being included in the planning process. Tim Reaburn noted that having the parliamentarian included in the meeting planning process would be helpful. Gary Clark declared a consensus that we receive Equity Monitor report and are comfortable with continuing this role going forward.

b) Feedback

Gary Clark said he had reviewed the October Regional Council meeting feedback and asked for other comments from the Executive. Executive members noted that about 20% of meeting attendees responded. Other comments were made about the helpfulness of the pre-meeting webinars, and how small group participation was made possible even through use of the Zoom teleconference format. Cheryl-Ann said the amount budgeted for the October meeting was \$40,000 whereas the actual meeting cost was about \$5,000.

c) Finalize 2021 Budget

Brent Caslick said the 2021 budget is essentially the same as that presented and approved at the October Regional Council meeting, with some money being transferred from reserves to address Executive meeting costs.

New Business

1. Proposal 1: Amendment to Governance Handbook

Cheryl-Ann noted that we might not wish to always meet at same time based on Executive member composition, and the current Handbook wording promotes an expectation for meetings which needs to be made flexible to accommodate the needs of the Executive. The proposal is that the regional council:

Amend the Governance Handbook by amending/adding to the section "Meetings" to read:

The schedule for meetings will be reviewed following the election of new members and set for the coming year with a view to workload and personal schedules. The majority of meetings happen virtually.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

2. Proposal 2: Making Financial Resources Available

Cheryl-Ann said a list of funds and grants available were listed as part of the shared folder information for this meeting. She said that a review of these funds was undertaken so as to be faithful to the purpose of those funds and establish simple processes for allowing them to be rolled out rather than the regional council continuing to retain them.

Bruce Dickson said it would be helpful to identify that these are funds other than Mission Support grants, which are a different funding source.

The proposal is that the Executive:

- 1) Direct the Executive Minister to work with the Administrative Assistant, Website Management to ensure that the description of the funds and the process for accessing them is added to the website no later than February 28, 2021 and ideally sooner;
 - 2) Approve the attached application form for use for all funds;
 - 3) Set April 1st and October 1st as application deadlines for grant cycles.
- Gary Clark declared the amended proposal approved by consensus.

3. Proposal 3: Student Funding

Gary Clark said it was noted previously that students be made aware of our guidelines such that they would know what funding would be available to support their studies.

The proposal is that the regional council:

Adopt the following as their current policy for students in ministry applying for financial aid to help with school costs:

Bursaries will be provided in the amount of \$2,000 per year for a maximum of three years for candidates pursuing theological studies in a recognized United Church program.

The Executive will keep a spreadsheet (started by the President Elect) which tracks amounts given to each student over their student life.

When the executive receives for information an application form, at its next meeting it will instruct payment to be issued.

Gary Clark declared the amended proposal approved by consensus.

Cheryl-Ann said she would follow up with students who were eligible but did not receive any bursary funding in 2020. Cheryl-Ann will work with Mark Laird, Brent Caslick, and admin staff to develop a separate application for the Ministry Preparation Fund: Stream Two – Support for Candidates.

4. Executive Minister Accountability Report for December 2020 (for information)

5. Campus Chaplains Letter GCE Oct 2020 (for information)

6. TUCC donation for Wesley UC Saugeen First Nation (for information)

Cheryl-Ann noted that \$13,000 had been donated for Saugeen Wesley United Church from the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC)

7. Mission & Service to 20201204 (for information)

Looking Ahead

1. Affirm
2. BLM
3. Racial Justice Training
4. Regional Council Meetings in 2021

Gary Clark said he would like a date set and a planning team in place for the 2021 meeting. Cheryl-Ann said May 28th is the date set with Senator Murray Sinclair to speak about Calls to the Church.

Cheryl-Ann suggested a date of the May 15th weekend, which would consist of a 3-day event May 14-16. Several options around format and topics were raised.

The proposal is that the 2021 regional council meeting be a 3-day event held May 14-16.

Gary Clark declared this proposal approved by consensus.

5. Executive meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9:30 am (suggested)

Gary Clark asked if there was anything else people felt the need to discuss, and not hearing any other items declared the meeting closed.

Closing

Gary Clark blessed everyone and suggested the upcoming season be used as a time to rejuvenate and refresh. The meeting ended at 12:30 PM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- WOW Regional Council Executive, Wednesday, January 20, via Zoom