

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

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 9:00 am, Zoom Call

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 948 1084 3630; Password: 317828

Roster: (8) Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Kate Crawford (Rev.), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay

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

Present: Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Kate Crawford (Rev.), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam

Regrets: 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: Judy Chalmers

Judy shared the land acknowledgement that was developed with the help of M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre and the Chippewas of Nawash and adopted in February 2021 by Grey County councillors

“We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishiaabek, Six Nations of the Grand River, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples on whose traditional territories we gather and whose ancestors signed treaties with our ancestors. We recognize also, the Metis and Inuit whose ancestors shared this land and these waters. May we all, as Treaty People, live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples.”

Opening Worship: Norm Eygenraam

Norm shared a thought-provoking meditation from Cameron Trimble's blog, a variation on the beatitudes “Blessed are the Curious”. Norm 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 February 11, 2021 and March 4, 2021 as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Huron Shores request for covenanting with the regional council. John Neff will have a conversation with Kate Crawford to determine date, details and will bring the date to the Covenant Commission.

Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

WOWRC has 140 pastoral charges. 52 have pastoral charge supervisors = 37%

John noted this is not a situation unique to WOWRC. Regional council staff, and then national staff, pastoral relations ministers, and congregational support ministers, have been discussing what it means to be a lay led congregation.

- a. Harry Disher to Knox UC, Ayr beginning immediately
- b. Heather Davies to Saugeen First Nations, Wesley United Church beginning March 3, 2021
- c. John Neff to St. Andrew's UC, Bayfield from April 21 – Aug 28, 2021 while pastoral charge supervisor, Kate Crawford, is on sabbatical. Kate will update John on Bayfield.

2. Supervisors needed: John's current understanding of what is needed, based on database information.

Connected From	City	Connected To	Starting	Ending	Description
Goldstone UC	Drayton	PCS Needed	01-01-2019		Vacant - Services 2-3 times a year (meets only in the summer though, unclear if trustees/board etc) John will ask Mark Laird (Drayton UC minister) if he knows anything further
Calvary-Zion PC	Listowel	PCS Needed	08-01-2020		Vacant
Milverton: St. Paul's PC	Milverton	PCS Needed	03-01-2021	12-31-2021	Student - Sonya van de Hoef-Fraser (SME) Gail Fricker suggested as pcs? If there is an educational supervisor maybe they could be pcs
Harriston PC	Harriston	PCS Needed	05-10-2021	09-20-2021	Sabbatical
Meaford PC	Meaford	PCS Needed	06-01-2021		Will be vacant
Collingwood: Trinity PC	Collingwood	PCS Needed	07-01-2021		Vacancy
Fergus: Melville PC	Fergus	PCS Needed	07-01-2021		Will be vacant
Tara-Centenary PC	Tara (Dobbinton/Chesley)	PCS Needed	04-01-2021		Vacancy

3. Documents received for information

- a. Grace UC, Tavistock – Revised CEBA reporting form
- b. Thames Road-Elmville Pastoral Charge – Self-Assessment Checklist
- c. Palmerston UC – Revised Financial Viability worksheet, Revised Living Faith Story, CDM Position Description. Receive for information only. A new, revised, cooperative agreement has not been received and more information is needed on the CDM position before forwarding it to the HR Commission. John has sent many questions back to Palmerston.
- d. Campbellville, Ebenezer UC - Profiles, position description
- e. Dobbinton UC – Financial Statement

- ~~f. Markdale, Annesley UC – Revised Living Faith Story and Financial Viability Worksheet initially f/t, now 25 hrs Documents not submitted.~~
- g. Ballinafad UC – Mutual Release of Agreement of Purchase and Sale (for information only)
- h. Shelburne-Primrose PCS report
- i. Annual Reports:
 - i. Grace UC, Hanover
 - ii. Trinity UC, Annan
 - iii. Brucefield UC
 - iv. Thames Road-Elimville Pastoral Charge
 - v. Alma UC
 - vi. Dobbinton, UC

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

John is looking into the possibility of an online PCS reporting form.

New Business

1. Dundalk UC – Approval of Phase 2 and use of \$150,000 from restricted funds (sale of manse). David Shearman is working with Dundalk on this as PCS and is well up on the details.

MOTION Norm Eygenraam / Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves Dundalk UC's phase 2 renovation project and the use of \$150,000 of the restricted capital (sale of manse). Manse proceeds were \$407,000. This leaves \$257,000 to be invested according to the Regional Council property policy. **CARRIED**

2. Port Elgin UC – Request for adherents to be on governing body.

MOTION Marg Bakker / Norm Eygenraam

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the request of Port Elgin United Church to fill the positions of secretary and treasurer on the governing body with not full members as corresponding members.

CARRIED

From *The Manual*

B.7.3 Membership of the Governing Body, B.7.3.1 General

The governing body has the following members:

- a) the full members of the congregation elected by the congregation or pastoral charge;

Exception: There is one exception to the requirement in paragraphs (a) and (e) above for governing body members to be full members of the congregation: People who are not full members may be elected in special circumstances with the regional council's approval.

3. Disbandment of Holland Centre United Church

The Covenant Commission previously approved the intent to disband, sale of the building, and the disposition of assets. The building is now sold, assets received, and disposition completed. John have now regularized the process through 3 regional councils. We don't set disbandment date until all the assets etc.

MOTION Sandy Loomis / Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disbands the Holland Centre United Church effective as of today (March 11, 2021) and thanks them for their ministry and witness. **CARRIED**

4. Zion United Church, Rostock – Request for name change

MOTION Marg Bakker / Norm Eygenraam

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees with the name change of Sebringville Pastoral Charge, Zion United Church to Rostock Pastoral Charge, Rostock: Zion United Church as per their request. **CARRIED**

John noted trying to regularize names, so any name changes reflect geographic location. Sebringville closed, so Zion wanted to drop that part of the name.

5. Mount Hope UC – Demolition of building and transfer of property to municipal cemetery

MOTION Norm Eygenraam / Sandy Loomis

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council accept the proposal of the board and trustees of Mount Hope United Church for the demolition of the church building by Faust Construction and the transfer of the cemetery and church property, the legal description of which is the west corner of 10th side road and the 2nd concession of Arran Township, and the municipal address of which is 199 side road 10 south, to the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie for future and forever care.

Any residual funds to be dispersed according to WOW Regional Council property policy.

CARRIED

6. Mimosa United Church, Marsville and Mimosa Pastoral Charge – Name change

MOTION Marg Bakker / Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the name change of Marsville and Mimosa Pastoral Charge to Mimosa Pastoral Charge effective immediately, as per their request. **CARRIED**

7. Meeting Time and Zoom Links

John will cancel the current recurring zoom meeting. The date of the Covenant Commission meetings is always the second Thursday of the month. The time and zoom link will always be included at the top of the agenda.

Norm, wished to acknowledge as a representative of the commission, the commission's gladness that John is back and that he continues to be in everyone's prayers at this time of healing. John shared about his father, and thanked all for their ongoing prayers and care.

Ann closed with prayer, including in her prayer thoughts for John and an acknowledgement of the grief and pain suffered as the result of the pandemic, which started one year ago.

Next Meeting: Regular meeting Thursday, April 8, 2021 by Zoom Call – 7 PM

Worship by: Sandy Loomis

Land Acknowledgement: Judy Chalmers