

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
“Being Kicked out of the Boat”

Thursday, May 13 – Saturday, May 15, 2021
Spring 2021 Meeting Workbook



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Workbook Introduction

Format & Process for Proposals

The format for General Council proposals is being used for the regional meeting to help familiarize Western Ontario Waterways with it. The General Council approach involves three distinct stages in the decision-making process:

1. Listening/learning;
2. Discussion;
3. Decision.

In our regional council meeting we do not have the space or time to mirror these stages in the same way the General Council practices them.

In our proceedings, the steps will be:

1. The Presenter will outline:
 - a. What is the issue? And
 - b. The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.
2. The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.
3. The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool cards, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.
4. Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

Participation in a Virtual Meeting

The church is learning new ways to be together in a virtual world. Those participating in this meeting will have different levels of experience with the zoom platform.

How Zoom presents depends upon the device being used. Every participant is expected to know:

- 1) How to **mute** and **unmute** themselves;
- 2) How to turn their **video on** and **off**;
- 3) How to **rename themselves**;
- 4) How to **raise their hand**.

If you are not familiar with these options, there are zoom information tips on our website at: [Zoom resources](#).

Also, please feel free to contact Executive Assistant, Sue Duliban, sduliban@united-church.ca, no later than Monday, May 10th for additional help.

We do not have the capacity to provide one-on-one support during the regional council meeting.

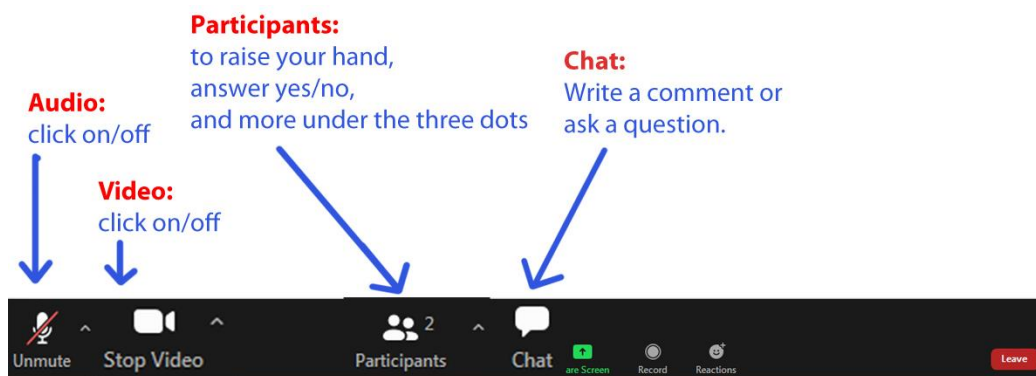
Voting and other matters will be explained in the meeting as needed.

Waiting Room

When you first log into the meeting, you will be placed in a waiting room. As soon as the meeting is ready to start, you will be automatically admitted.

Meet the Zoom Toolbar

These four icons at the bottom of your Zoom screen are the ones you will use – mostly! The Audio and Video are click for on or off. The Chat icon will open into a box into which you can type short questions or comments, either to the Hosts, Tech Team, other participants or to Everyone. The Participant icon opens into a box that has a row of icons at the bottom that you will use throughout the regional council sessions.



Participants

When you are admitted to the meeting, please go immediately to the Participants list. You will see your name listed BUT sometimes you are identified by the type of device you are using. The President

will be recognizing people on the basis of the name that is shown. So, please change your name to read **First Name/Surname** by clicking on **Participants**, hover your mouse over over the mic and camera icon next to your name, right-click on **More**, then **Rename**.

*For example, Cheryl-Ann's iphone might read: **C-A's iphone**. Cheryl-Ann would need to go to the Participant list and change her name to: **Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa**.*

Those who are at the meeting as a guest (not a voting participant) please add an x in front of your name. THIS IS IMPORTANT IF YOU ARE A NON-VOTING GUEST.

For example, if Cheryl-Ann was a guest, she would write her name as:
x-Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. This helps us with vote counting.

Mute

All participants will be automatically muted when they enter the meeting. Please ensure your microphone remains off. This reduces background noise and feedback and improves the quality of sound for everyone.

You will need to click on the **Mute** button to turn on your microphone if you are recognized by the President to speak in debate and when you move into breakout rooms.

Video

Please have your video on as you join the meeting! It is lovely to see everyone as the meeting begins.

Once the meeting begins, please turn off your video. That way, you have some privacy if you move around and it helps with the stability of the Zoom call especially in places with unstable internet.

Being recognized to speak

To be recognized to speak in the discussion time, first **please raise your hand** by clicking on the button labeled Raise Hand. This is either under **Reactions** or at the bottom of the **Participants box**. Your digital hand will then be raised. The hand will be lowered by the meeting hosts after you have spoken.

A member of the regional council staff will track who has their hand raised so the President can recognize individuals in order.

Remember when the President calls you by name to:

1. **Unmute** your microphone
2. Turn on **video**
3. **State your name**; and
4. Your **community of faith** – be sure to add the location as we have a few Trinity United Churches, Emmanuel United Churches, St. John's United Churches ...

Voting

This will be explained in the meeting. If you are a guest, please remember you do not vote.

Chat Box

Please reserve the chat box for the following:

1. Questions of clarification;

2. Procedural concerns and questions;
3. Matters of privilege (for example someone uses a term that is insulting to another who then wishes to bring that to the President's attention re the conduct of the council).

Many of us have experience of meetings where the chat box served as the discussion space, which in fact turns it into commentary. Discussion happens among participants when the President recognizes the speaker. The Chat Box is a side conversation that is distracting and disruptive.

If you see a friend among the participants with whom you wish to chat, please feel free to **send a private message** to them. Go to Participants, enter their name or scroll to their name & click on it and then you can send them a private note!

Breakout Rooms

Participants will be invited to move into a breakout room at various times during the meeting.

To join the breakout room, participants must accept the **join invitation**. People will be assigned the same breakout room for the entire meeting. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know some others in our regional council better.

When you are about to enter the breakout room, unmute your microphone and turn on your video.

Holy Manners

Many thanks to Diane Matheson-Jimenez, our Minister, Social Justice, for helping us to think about Holy Manners as more than a call for polite discourse (although that also seems in short supply these days), and for offering us an acronym that gives us a way to have faith-filled conversations on important topics.

For our time together, we commit to being brave by ...

- B** eing accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence
- R** eflexing on and naming our own biases
- A** ctively listening
- V** ocalizing questions that arise from our learning
- E** ncountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder

Preparing for the Meeting

At this meeting, we will elect Regional Council Executive and Commission Members and General Council Commissioners.

In order to leave the deadline for nominations open as late as possible, regional council representatives will receive the biographies of the nominees the evening before the election. Please make sure to book time to read them through carefully.

Section One: Check-In

President's Message

Greetings Friends,

If you are receiving this communication then you are a representative from your Community of Faith. So, I first want to thank you for your faithful service. This has been an unusually trying time for every institution including the church. Like me you must be wondering what changes are being brought to our faith families? This meeting will allow you to hear what the Regional Council has been about and we are trying to protect time in the agenda for you to speak to each other about the life of your congregations.

The theme is "Being Kicked out of the Boat." The image is from the Book of Jonah. Jonah had little choice in the matter and when he hit the water he was completely enveloped by the whale. The whale took him down deep and, in the silence, he had to let go of all control, real and imagined. We too are being called to let go of some of the practices that we have held dear and have believed were essential if we are to call ourselves a church. The desire to rush back and simply continue doing what we have been doing is strong. I want you to resist this powerful longing. Use this time to answer "Now that we are out of the familiar boat what is God calling us to change?" There will not be another chance to so radically alter the course of our community in our lifetimes. In fact, the church has not been so challenged and blessed with this kind of opportunity for several centuries.

I know it isn't easy to change. Jonah grumbled all the way. Mostly because he didn't think that those outside the family were worthy of God's Word. But even in his grumbling he ultimately chose to do as God directed. In that choice new life, new hope and promise was found for him and this outside the people outside the community of faith. We will not know how these changes will affect us and those who presently stand outside the church. But now is the hour of our rising. May we dare to rise anew in unexpected ways in the communities we love.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "C".

Gary Clark, President

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Note About Regional Council Meetings

Dear Friends,

This note is to give an update on our continually evolving process for Regional Council meetings. As this past year has given us many, many challenges, it has also showed us out of necessity new ways of being together, new possibilities. One of those new possibilities is the ability to have more than one Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council meeting a year. The Executive is currently favouring the format of having a spring and fall meeting. This allows us to divide things and hopefully give the proper amount of time for them.

It does mean that perhaps some things we are used to seeing at the Spring meeting are going to be seen at the Fall meeting. For example, it makes more sense to talk about the 2022 budget in September or October than it does in May. Also, we will be moving the honouring of retirees to the fall meeting so that we can make sure we are able to honour everyone who plans to retire in the current year.

We are hoping that this format allows us to have smaller group time at each gathering, so we can try to stay connected, even though we are being asked to stay apart.

Stay safe, stay healthy and may the grace of God be with you always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Laird". The script is cursive and fluid.

Mark Laird, President-Elect
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council



Messages from the Mission & Discipleship Commission, Covenant Commission, Human Resources Commission

Mission and Discipleship Commission

The Mission and Discipleship Commission will be making a video presentation.

[Bruce Dickson](#), Acting Chair

Covenant Commission

The Covenant Commission has made a video and PowerPoint to present to the regional council.

[Ann Harbridge](#), Chair

Human Resources Commission

The Human Resources Commission will be recognizing new Licenced Lay Worship Leaders.

[Micol Cottrell](#), Chair



In Memoriam

Rev. Lenore Pearl Beecham, OM

Rev. Mary Elliott, DM

Rev. Susanne "Sue" Taylor, DM

Rev. John "Jack" Tweddle, OM

Rev. Karl-Heinz Sievert, OM

Jubilands

We celebrate the anniversaries of Ordination, Admission, Commissioning & Recognition

5 Years

Deborah Boukydis-Grant, OM
 Sydney Elias, OM
 Tessica Hackshaw, OM
 Margaret Jordan, OM
 Miriam Flynn, OM
 Kathryn Underwood, OM

10 Years

Kevin Hart, DLM
 Rose Ann Vita, OM

15 Years

Bonnie Holliday, OM

20 Years

Margaret Dieter, OM
 Jennifer Irving, OM
 Tim Reaburn, OM

25 Years

Kyle Bengier, OM
 J. Scott Boughner, OM
 Paul Gilroy, OM
 Willem Kreeft, OM
 Julia Rose, DLM
 Greg Smith-Young, OM
 Peter (Jock) Tolmay, OM

30 Years

Jack Fearnall, OM
 Ralph Schmidt, OM
 Robert Strachan, OM
 Jeffrey Werner, OM
 Brenda Woodall, OM

35 Years

Edward Laksmanis, OM
 John Lawson, OM
 Sally Longfellow, OM
 Hugh MacDonald, OM
 Janet MacDonald, OM

35 Years

Roy Nicol-Macdonald, OM
 Katharine Edmonstone, DM
 Lilian Patey, OM
 Judith Springett, OM

40 Years

James Ball, OM
 Richard Burgess, OM
 B. Paul Ellingham, OM
 Bonnie Kelly, OM
 William McAuslan, OM
 George Russell, OM

45 Years

Bruce Gregersen, OM
 Robert McMullen, OM
 Bruce Sweet, OM
 Alun Thomas, OM

50 Years

Bryan Lapier, OM
 Gordon Williams, OM

55 Years

Sylvia Bell, DM
 Douglas Kaufman, OM

60 Years

E. Alan Roberts, OM
 Randolph Scott, OM
 Bruce Seebach, OM

65 + Years

Calvin Evans, OM
 N. Bruce McLeod, OM
 George Moore, OM

70 Years

R. Cerwyn Davies, OM
 Hugh Rose, OM



Community of Faith Amalgamation

Many blessings as these communities of faith continue their ministry together

Ballinacorney United Church and Erin United Church

January 1, 2021



Section Two: Nominations

Executives & Commissions: Terms/Vacancies @ May 2021

* Terms to be decided with one-third completing a term annually

The regional council thanks the following whose terms are ending:

Executive: President Gary Clark, Jessica Cottrell, Tim Reaburn

Covenant Commission: Ann Harbridge, Sandy Loomis

Human Resources Commission: Joanne Angle, Marion Boyd, Cecil Ormand

Mission & Discipleship Commission: Joyce Osborne, Keith Reynolds

Note: Some may be offering themselves for re-election.

Executive: Can elect up to 4. Preference for youth/young adult, and racialized. Lay members needed.

President, Gary Clark OM (21) Will move to past president, serving until 2022	Andrea Allan OM (23)	Jessica Cottrell OM (21) Expression of interest submitted
Secretary, Rod Coates (22)	Heather Davies OM (22)	Joyce Johnston
Treasurer, Brent Caslick (22)	Heather Leffler OM (23)	Tim Reaburn OM (21) Diversity
President-Elect, Mark Laird DM (23)	Terry Smith (23) CC	+ Micol Cottrell (HRC), Bruce Dickson (M&DC) & Covenant Commission rep

Covenant Commission: Must elect 1. Can elect up to 5. MP members needed.

Chair, Ann Harbridge DLM (21) Expression of interest submitted	Margaret Bakker (23)	Judy Chalmers (23)
Kate Crawford OM (22)	Arthur Hills (23)	Matthew Lindsay (23)
Sandy Loomis (21)	Norm Eygenraam (23)	

Human Resources Commission: Can elect 3. Must elect 1 MP.

Chair, Micol Cottrell OM (22)	JoAnne Angle (21) Expression of interest submitted	Marion Boyd (21) Expression of interest submitted
Gwen Good (23)	Douglas Hayward (23)	Cathy Larmond OM (23)
Cecil Omand (21)	Russell Rogers RDLM (23)	Tom Slumskie (22)
Mel Spencer (23)	Carol Stephenson (22)	Jane Sullivan OM (23) CC

Mission & Discipleship Commission: Must elect 1. Can elect up to 6.

Acting Chair, Bruce Dickson OM (22)	Edith Coyle UCW (23)	Rodger Filsinger (23)
Gail Fricker OM (23)	Mary Hawthorne (22)	Jenn Hind-Urquhart OM (23)
Joyce Osborne (21)		

Preparing for General Council 44

General Council is the decision-making body of the United Church as a whole. It brings together Commissioners (those elected to be members of this meeting of the General Council) to help set the course for the future of the United Church.

Due to the pandemic, the decision has been made that this will be a virtual General Council meeting. The first session will be convened online in February, 2022. The decision-making sessions will be held online July 22-26, 2022.

Electing Commissioners

The [Position Description](#) for General Council 44 Commissioners can be downloaded here.

- A full member of a United Church of Canada congregation within the bounds of this regional council ([The Manual, 2021](#) Section B.3.3.);
- Time to prepare for General Council by familiarizing themselves with the material in advance and participating in the Listening/Learning online seminars;

Loving the church and longing for its faithful witness and its well-being are valuable qualities for a Commissioner to have.

Click to fill out the [General Council Commissioner Nomination Form](#).

There will be an orientation session for the regional council Commissioners prior to General Council 44. The church is strengthened when there is a mix of experienced and first-time Commissioners.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council will be electing 13 Commissioners to accompany then President Mark Laird to General Council 44, for a total of 14 Commissioners.

As you consider General Council 44 Commissioner nominations, and who to vote for during the election of our WOW commissioners, remember the importance of reflecting the diversity of our denomination. Also, consider the diversity we as a church want (or need) as we seek to live out God's mission. Ask yourself questions like:

“Whose voices need to be heard in this decision-making body of our church?”

“Who's missing from the table?”

“Whose wisdom, insights and experience can best contribute to the conversations and actions at GC44?”

Let these questions – and others that the Spirit brings – aid you in your decision-making.

WOWRC process for the election of commissioners:

- A) Have an initial round of voting to elect:
 - 1) Two (2) Indigenous Commissioner.
The process to secure nominations for these positions to be determined in consultation with Indigenous ministries.
 - 2) Four (4) Commissioners who self-identify as meeting the areas of diversity outlined in *The Manual*, as well as people with disabilities
- B) Have a second round of voting to elect the balance of Commissioners. Any positions not filled in the first round will be filled by the second. Any nominees not elected in the first round will be on the ballot for the second round.

Section Three: Meeting Materials

Agenda

Thursday May 13 PM

Doors open 6:30

6:45

Hymn sing

7 - 8:30

Opening & procedural motions

Theme introduction, introduction of leadership. Format of the next couple of days.

Worship time, including Communion

Breakout Groups - community building

GC44 Commissioners - reminder

Friday May 14 PM

4 - 5:30

Open with prayer and hymn sing

Introduction of GC44 commissioner process

GC44 commissioner info videos

Commission Check-In

 Covenant Commission - video

 Human Resources Commission *LLWL Recognition Service – Live

 Mission & Discipleship - video

Q&A

Breakout groups

7 - 8:30

Open with prayer and hymn sing

Election of GC44 Commissioners (first ballot)

Southampton Hub / Rural Connect presentation

Breakout Groups - community building

Regroup/follow-up, ending

Saturday May 15 AM

9 - 10:30

Open with prayer and hymn sing

GC44 Commissioners (second ballot)

Mission & Service Presentation: Dave Jagger, Stewardship & Gift Officer

In Memoriams

Jubilands

Community of Faith Amalgamation

Election of Executive & Commissions

Break: 15 minutes

10:45 - 12:30

Open with prayer and hymn sing

Assessments 2022 discussion with Erik Mathiesen, GCO Executive Officer, Finance

GC44 proposals

Saturday May 15 PM

1:30 - 3

In Community

Moderator's Message

Staff Support Committee

Breakout groups - what we will take forward

Closing Motions

Courtesies and Thank Yous

Covenanting with GC44 Commissioners, New Executive and Commission Members

Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE:

*We expect participants of the meeting to know zoom basics: mute, unmute, stop video, chat. Instructions are different depending on the device you are using, you need to do the preparation. If you aren't familiar with these tools, email the regional council at wowrc@united-church.ca. Before we have a vote, we will give guidance during the meeting.

Proposal #1 – Opening & Procedural Motions

Title: Opening and Procedural Motions

Origin: Executive Minister

What is the issue?

The regional council must establish the procedures by which it will conduct business.

Why is this issue important?

This clarifies and confirms the way in which decision-making will happen.

How might the regional council respond to the issue?

The regional council might adopt the following as a consent docket:

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary.
2. Approve the minutes of the October 15-18, 2020 meeting.
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
 - i. Executive
 - 2020-09-15
 - 2020-09-16
 - 2020-11-10
 - 2020-12-16
 - 2021-01-14
 - 2021-02-17
 - 2021-03-17
 - ii. Covenant Commission
 - 2020-07-21
 - 2020-07-29
 - 2020-09-10
 - 2020-10-08
 - 2020-11-05
 - 2020-12-10
 - 2021-01-14
 - 2021-02-11
 - 2021-03-04
 - 2021-03-11
 - iii. Human Resources Commission
 - 2020-09-15
 - 2020-10-20
 - 2020-11-17
 - 2020-12-15
 - 2021-01-19
 - 2021-02-16
 - 2021-03-16

iv. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2021-03-11

2021-01-21

2020-11-12

2020-12-15

for information.

4. Appoint Tim Reaburn as Parliamentarian.
5. Name President Gary Clark, President-Elect, Mark Laird, Parliamentarian Tim Reaburn, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Secretary Rod Coates and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee.
6. Name regional council staff members John Neff, Sue Duliban, Pretima Kukadia-Kinting and Ruthanna Mack as scrutineers.
7. Name Deborah Deavu as Equity Support Team Member.
8. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call.
9. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c).
10. Make all guests corresponding members.
11. Set the deadline for nominations for General Council Commissioners as midnight, Thursday, May 13, 2021.
12. Set the deadline for Expressions of Interest for Regional Council Executive and Commission members as midnight Friday, May 14, 2021.
13. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 6:00 p.m., Friday, May 14, 2021.
14. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council.
 - Step One:

The Presenter will outline

 - A) What is the issue? And
 - B) The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.
 - Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.
 - Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.
 - Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

Proposal #2 – Closing Motions

Title: Closing Motions

Origin: Executive Minister

What is the issue?

The work of the regional council continues between regional council meetings.

Why is this issue important?

The regional council must be clear how the work will continue.

What might the regional council do?

The regional council might

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its May 13-15, 2021 meeting to the Executive.
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting.
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2021; and
4. Entrust the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council in accordance with the Manual of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.
5. Close the May 13-15, 2021 meeting of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at the end of the covenanting with GC44 Commissioners, new Executive and Commission members on Saturday, May 15.

