**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

Shape ***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

May 13, 2020, 9:00 AM, Zoom Call

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, Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Arthur Hills

## Regrets: John Neff, Kate Crawford, Matthew Lindsay, Norm Eygenraam

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: Marg Bakker Marg shared the Land Acknowledgement of Camp Menesetung:

“Menesetung is a Chippewa word meaning “Laughing Waters” in reference to the nearby Menesetung river now called the Maitland River ([Lee, 2004](https://books.google.ca/books?dq=word%20meaning%3A%20menesetung&hl=en&id=R9g28_vHnUkC&lpg=PA251&ots=KDBGIlQ9vY&pg=PA251&sa=X&sig=ACfU3U0KTlFK_3NHsScFUNJDIL2c39bUmg&source=bl&ved=2ahUKEwjRw8SNlrHpAhVIB50JHR3yDVg4ChDoATAAegQIChAB#v=onepage&q=word%20meaning%3A%20menesetung&f=false)). We wish to acknowledge that the beautiful land on which we gather has been lived on and cared for by the Anishinabewaki, the Odawa, the Chippewa and other Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. We are a treaty people - we are part of [Treaty 29](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1370372152585/1581293792285#ucls21). We wish to honour the land on which we gather and the people who cared for it by caring for it ourselves and pursuing reconciliation in the face of Canada’s unjust treatment of Indigenous peoples in the past & present”.

Opening Worship:Judy Chalmers Judy read a story from Minute for Mission; reflecting on how everyone can make a difference and we all have super powers. Judy closed with prayer.

## Opening Agreements

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** on the agenda with additions added.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree t**o approve the minutes of April 8, 2021 as circulated.

## Business Arising

## Annual reports

## No decision was made on reviewing these. It was suggested that volunteers be recruited from the resource pool to review as they come in and highlight if there is anything to report. Ann will draft an email, Sue will find the list and send out email.

## Lay led congregations

Agreement to proceed. It was noted this is an information collecting period; but it was also hoped that some recommendations might come out of this study as well.

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approach the Executive to:

* 1. recruit, appoint and compensate (on a per hour basis to a maximum total remuneration of $15,000) an appointee to meet with communities of faith that the Covenant Commission identifies as lay-led congregations in the regional council;
  2. direct the appointee to secure information from lay-led congregations between June 1st and October 31st as to how they explore faith, worship and serve as well as to how they connect with the wider life and mission of the United Church and to inquire what supports might be of benefit to them;
  3. direct the appointee to prepare a report providing feedback on the topics listed in 2) above for the consideration of the Covenant Commission and Executive by November 30, 2021.

**CARRIED**

## Consent Docket

1. Correspondence: N/A
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Gail Clarkson to Harriston UC from 210510 – 210920 while ministry personnel, Jessica Cottrell, is on sabbatical.
   2. Tim Reaburn to St. John’s UC, Chesley beginning May 1, 2021.
   3. Rev. Gerry Hofstetter for the May 12, 2021 meeting of Port Elgin U.C. Council
3. Documents received for information
   1. St. John’s UC, Alliston – 2020 Annual Report
   2. Grace UC, Tavistock – Tech Grant Application
   3. Knox UC, Belgrave – 2020 Annual Report
   4. St. Mary’s UC, St. Mary’s – 2020 Annual Report
   5. Grace UC, Hanover – CEBA Reporting Form; Financial Viability Worksheet
   6. Lakeshore UC, Goderich – Governance structure change document for information
   7. Trinity UC, Annan – Use of restricted funds report
   8. Keady North Derby UC - 2021 Self-Assessment
   9. Fergus – Melville – receive the financial viability, balance sheet, demographic, minister’s profile from Fergus-Melville and support their recommendation for a Full-time minister up to category F.

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

## New Business:

1. Covenanting services:

St. Paul’s UC, Metz – May 16, 2021 9:30 am.

Who will attend? Ann Harbridge. Ann will contact Susan Leuty.

Rockwood Stone – June 6 or June 20 9:30 am on zoom

Who will attend? Arthur Hills. Will contact Heather Leffler to confirm dates

Knox UC, Ayr – Financial Viability Worksheet

Knox is seeking a short-term appointment while they work on the paperwork for a search.

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Marg Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives the Financial Viability Worksheet and agrees with the recommendation that Knox UC, Ayr community of faith is viable to appoint, a full-time Supply Appointment for a three (3) month period from May 1st to July 31st, 2021 to Rev. Lilian Patey, with the possibility of an additional three (3) month extension at three-quarter (3/4) time. **CARRIED**

1. Campbellville, Ebenezer

Living Faith Story, Financial Viability Worksheet, Financial Statement, Cover page, Position Description received. Ebenezer is looking to have a ½ time SME student.

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Arthur Hills that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives Living Faith Story, Financial Viability Worksheet, Financial Statement, Cover page, Position Description and agrees with the recommendation that Campbellville, Ebenezer community of faith is viable to appoint an SME student for 20 hours per week. CARRIED

1. Shelburne, Trinity United – Plan of organization & request for non-member to be granted voting privileges.

MOTION: Marg Bakker / Judy Chalmers, that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the Governance structure for Trinity United Church, Shelburne, and approve the request that Darlene Morrow be granted voting privileges as a member of council. **CARRIED**

# Nottawa United Church requesting permission to disband

# **MOTION**: Arthur Hills / Marg Bakker, that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the request of the congregation of Nottawa United Church to begin the process of disbanding as a congregation. The effective date will be finalized with the regional council at a later date. **CARRIED**

1. Fergus – Melville – receive the financial viability, balance sheet, demographic, minister’s profile from Fergus-Melville and support their recommendation for a Full-time minister up to category F. Moved to consent docket
2. St. Lukes, Cambridge Redevelopment Plan

MOTION: Arthur Hills / Judy Chalmers, that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees to the request of St. Luke’s Cambridge to contract Shiedel Construction Inc. for an estimated $473,448 plus HST to undertake the renovations detailed in the drawings included with the Proposal submitted and authorizes St. Luke's U.C. to draw on the proceeds from the earlier authorized sale of property to St. Luke's Place to fund the project. **CARRIED**

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, June 17th 7 pm by Zoom

Worship by: Ann Harbridge and Acknowledgement: Arthur Hills

## Adjournment