**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

October 21,2021 - **7 pm**, Zoom Call

Roster: (8) Ann Harbridge, Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay, Bruce Gregersen, Marg Krauter

Staff Support:Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission

Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

## Present: Ann Harbridge, Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay, Bruce Gregersen, Marg Krauter

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

Opening Worship:Ann Harbridge

## 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 t**o approve the minutes of September 9, 2021 as circulated.

## Business Arising:

1. No business arising

## Consent Docket:

1. Correspondence - none
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Ed Laksmanis to Tobermory UC effective October 1, 2021.
   2. Tim Reaburn to Lion’s Head/Pike Bay pastoral charge effective October 1, 2021
   3. Cathy Stewart Savage to Trinity UC, Kitchener effective January 1, 2022
   4. Gary Clark to Wesley UC, Cambridge effective October 17, 2021
   5. Gord Dunbar to Lucknow UC effective October 1, 2021
   6. Bruce Gregersen to Tottenham/Rich Hill pastoral charge effective October 8, 2021
   7. Marion Boyd to St. John’s UC, Chesley effective October 5, 2021
   8. Marion Boyd to Dobbinton UC effective October 5, 2021
   9. Harry Disher to Knox UC, Ayr effective October 18, 2021
   10. Additions made to pastoral charge supervisor list

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pastoral Charge** | **CoF** | **Connected To** | **Starting** | **Ending** | **Description** |
| Bloomingdale Pastoral Charge | Bloomingdale United Church | PCS Needed | 02-13-2020 |  | Arthur Hills. Without Ministry Personnel; PCS moved |
| Cedar Hill Pastoral Charge | Cedar Hill United Church, Cambridge | PCS Needed | 08-01-2021 |  | Possibly Tom Dunbar |
| Collingwood: Trinity Pastoral Charge | Trinity United Church, Collingwood | PCS Needed | 10-11-2021 |  | Possibly Ann Harbridge. Minister leaving |
| Durham Pastoral Charge | Knox United Church, Durham | PCS Needed | 01-01-2022 |  | Norm Eygenraam. John will clarify date and confirm if shared with Elmwood-Crawford. Norm will do Durham only. |
| Elmwood-Crawford Pastoral Charge | Crawford United Church | PCS Needed | 01-01-2022 |  | Will be vacant |
| Erin Pastoral Charge | Erin United Church | PCS Needed | 01-01-2022 |  | Will be vacant |
| Goldstone United Church | ? | PCS Needed | 01-01-2019 |  | Vacant - Services 2-3 times a year |
| Milverton: St. Paul's Pastoral Charge | St. Paul's United Church, Milverton | PCS Needed | 03-01-2021 | 12-31-2021 | Student - Sonya van de Hoef-Fraser  Possibly Tom Dunbar |
| Trinity, Elmira Pastoral Charge | Trinity United Church, Elmira | PCS Needed | 04-18-2022 | 08-15-2022 | Sabbatical |

1. Documents received. Ann Harbridge asked if there were any concerns/questions. Ann reviewed and noted that nothing raised red flags. Ann suggested, if have opportunity, commission members take a look in the dropbox at least once a week to see and review documents for upcoming meetings.
   1. Mt. Hope: Closing final service Sept 26, 2021
   2. Trinity Collingwood – plan of organization for approval
   3. Teeswater United Church – Intent to disband in 2022
   4. Zion UC, New Hamburg – Governance Model & Constitution
   5. St. John’s UC, Alliston – Financial report and Redevelopment plan received as information. They are talking to UPRC (United Property Resource Corporation). Received as information at this point, with knowledge they will have to be coming back with more detail/info. Note: UPRC CEO Tim Blair will be doing a presentation at the WOWRC November meeting.
   6. Massie UC - Report of Supervisor David Shearman (for information)
   7. Emmanuel UC, Waterloo – Community of Faith Self-Assessment
   8. St. Luke’s, Cambridge – Approval of Constitution

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

## New Business:

1. Covenanting services
   1. St. John’s UC, Alliston – October 24, 2021 at 10:30 am in person (need representative) Bruce
   2. St. John’s UC, Belwood - October 31, 2021 at 11:00 am in person (need representative) Marg K
   3. Arthur UC - November 7, 2021 at 10:30 am - in person. Marion Boyd has agreed
   4. Grace UC, Tavistock – November 14, 2021 at 10:30 am – in person (need representative) – on hold. Human Resources Commission, Acting Pastoral Relations Minister and John Neff are working with them.
   5. Trinity UC, Listowel and Atwood, covenanting – November 21, 2021 at 2:00 pm – in person (need representative). Matthew Lindsay will attend.
2. Disbandments
   1. Mount Hope United Church effective October 21, 2021.

**MOTION** Norm Eygenraam / Marg Krauter

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the disbandment of Mount Hope United Church effective October 21, 2021. **CARRIED.**

* 1. Knox United Church, Auburn moving to disbandment, anticipating effective June 30, 2022.

Discussion followed about the wisdom of appointing someone to walk with a congregation through the process of disbanding. John Neff noted that in Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls, “companions” are appointed. The commission liked the idea of companions. John Neff suggested a call be put out at the WOWRC November meeting.

1. **St. John’s UC, Chesley – Approve the use of Use of restricted funds (16,000) for replacement of oil furnaces to natural gas.**

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the request from St. John’s United Church, Chesley, to use $16,000.00 in restricted funds for the replacement of oil furnaces to natural gas. **CARRIED.**

1. **Glen Morris UC – Technology Support Grant**

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Matthew Lindsay

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve Glen Morris United Church’s Technology Support Grant application. **CARRIED.**

1. Regional Meeting

* Resource Pools – what pools would be helpful – info for Regional meeting. What kind of work we need: pastoral charge supervisors, people to review annual reports/self assessments and give feedback, companions to work with congregations that are closing, network of carers (as long as we add what they are “companioning”), representation at covenanting services between regional council and communities of faith.
* Presentation to regional meeting – how do we engage participants in our work (20 min)

Suggestions included:

Poll: what areas of covenant commission work are people most interested in

\*\*Quiz: about the work of the covenant commission. Ann Harbridge will work on questions, get input and feedback from commission/Matthew Lindsay will help with tech.

Judy Chalmers is willing to continue tracking self assessments. Ann Harbridge noted it would be ideal if a couple of people could be found to review annual reports and see if anything needs to be addressed.

1. Racial Justice Training for Commission Members (6:30 – 9:00 pm)

Jan. 5

Jan. 19

Feb. 2

Feb. 16

If you are mp it will update your qualification.

1. Requests from St. Andrew’s UC, Bayfield. Council encouraged congregation to adopt all the recommendations.
   1. Ask the pastoral charge supervisor (John continuing the work cause familiar) to provide a report in 6 months as to the progress of implementation of the recommendations from this report.
   2. Ask the Minister for Congregational Support and Mission to work with the congregation on implementing the recommendations. (governance, communication those kind of things).
   3. Request the Covenant Commission to provide financial support for the United Fresh Start Module

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council pay the cost of United Fresh Start Module for St. Andrew’s UC, Bayfield. **CARRIED.**

The Covenant Commission will be advised of the cost of the module once it is known.

1. Fordwich UC – Acceptance of Tender for Church Property

**MOTION** Norm Eygenraam / Marg Krauter

That the Covenant Commission approve the acceptance of the sale by tender of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is PT LT 7 S/S Adelaide St PL 243 Howick as in R202511; PT LT 8 S/S Adelaide St PL 243 Howick as in HOA11039 except HOA15235; Howick (PIN 41012-0079 (LT), and municipally known as 3080 Patrick Street, Fordwich, Ontario; pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Fordwich United Church (Vendor) and Ernest Tyrone Cross and Fay Lenore Cross (Purchaser). The terms of which are as follows.

* Sale price: $220,750.00
* To use as a single family dwelling
* No Conditions
* Closing Date: December 10, 2021

The Real Property referred to in the above resolution is within the bounds of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council;

The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Fordwich United Church, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, in trust for the use and benefit of the congregation of the Fordwich United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED**

1. FYI – Map of churches engaging UPRC. [https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1fDKNVPuFMchMXNG9ausr4H\_Ki-ba7B48&usp=sharing](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fd%2Fedit%3Fmid%3D1fDKNVPuFMchMXNG9ausr4H_Ki-ba7B48%26usp%3Dsharing&data=04%7C01%7CJNeff%40united-church.ca%7C034fcc26d1c04be2814508d982cb7058%7Ccf18b5a826784011931215f0f7157574%7C0%7C0%7C637684632532527404%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=oP%2F1jxrfVPM3upv4taLrQaVpBKg5qwbr4SB66q7FI4U%3D&reserved=0)
2. Commission going on to Sharepoint (for information)

John Neff shared that instead of using dropbox, commissions/executives can have a Sharepoint site, that includes those without United Church of Canada emails. Before moving onto other regional councils and the WOWRC commissions/executive, John has arranged that WOWRC Covenant Commission can do a trial setup. Further details will be forthcoming.

Next Meeting:November 25, 2021, 7 pm by Zoom Call

Worship by: Norm Eygenraam

Land Acknowledgement: John Neff

## Adjournment: 8:30 pm