**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

 ***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

# Friday, November 26, 2021

The Executive of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council was called to meet Friday, November 26, via the Zoom teleconference platform as part of a joint Executive meeting with the Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls regional council executives.

**Opening Worship and Land Acknowledgement**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa welcomed everyone and opened the joint meeting at 7:05 PM. 61 participants attended this portion of the meeting.

Mark Laird stated that we are from in a vast region and that water connects us all. He then continued with an acknowledgement of the land.

Jane Van Patter delivered a brief meditation about water, with continuing meditation remarks on the water theme then provided by Andrea Allen. Robert Lawson described the water of baptism and various instances of God using water (water of baptism, creation, flood, baptism of Jesus, etc.).

Rick Dalton read an extract from “Water” by Philip Parkin.

The hymn “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” (VU 563) was sung.

A closing benediction was made by Robert Lawson, Jane Van Patter & Mark Laird, followed by a recitation of A New Creed.

**Staff Covenanting**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa opened the covenanting service with regional council staff persons, to which both the three executives and regional council members had been invited:

Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Thérèse Samuel

Michele Petick

The hymn “I have Called You By Your Name” (MV 224) was sung.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Thérèse Samuel & Michele Petick each shared symbols significant to them in their portfolios.

Judith Gilliland, Andrea Allan & Rick Dalton each offered blessings for the work of Diane, Thérèse & Michele.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa thanked the regional council members who had participated in the covenanting service. About 35 people remained for the tri-region executives meeting.

**Introduction of ARW Executive & Community Building**

Jane Van Petter (President, Antler River Waterways) introduced herself and invited other members of the ARW Executive to introduce themselves in turn.

**Intro to TRC (Truth & Reconciliation Commission) Discussion**

Mark Laird introduced the topic of right relations, nothing that it had been a common theme of the tri-regions Transition Commission. Mark noted that Western Ontario Waterways racial justice training is upcoming in January. Robert Lawson and Jane Van Patter commented on matters related to right relations in their respective regions.

The meeting then split into break-out rooms for small-group discussions on the questions:

* What’s a step you have taken in your journey towards reconciliation since we met with His Honour Murray Sinclair?
* What’s the next step you would like to see your executive/regional council take?

**Closing/Benediction**

Robert Lawson closed the meeting with remarks about the power and significance of water, followed by prayer. The meeting ended at 8:35 PM.

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# Saturday, November 27, 2021

 **Roster:** Mark Laird (President), Gary Clark (Past President), Rod Coates (Secretary), Brent Caslick (Treasurer), Andrea Allan, Jessica Cottrell, Heather Davies, Bruce Dickson, Ann Harbridge, Joyce Johnston, Cathy Larmond, Heather Leffler, Terry Smith

**Staff Support:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Sue Duliban

 **Present:** Andrea Allan, Brent Caslick, Rod Coates, Jessica Cottrell, Heather Davies, Bruce Dickson, Heather Leffler, Mark Laird, Cathy Larmond

The Executive of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive resumed its meeting (adjourned from Friday, November 26), on Saturday, November 27 at 9:30 AM. The meeting was held via the Zoom teleconference platform as part of a joint Executive meeting with the Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls regional council executives.

**Opening Worship and Land Acknowledgement**

Jane Van Patter opened the meeting with a reconciliation focus – a land acknowledgement, followed by a lifting up of indigenous artists and leaders who had influenced her.

The worship program derived from the UCC Resource - Advent Unwrapped

Jane closed the worship meditation with prayer.

**Introduction of HF Executive & Community Building**

Robert Lawson (President, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council) introduced himself, following which other members of the HF Executive introduced themselves in turn.

**Review Ministry Sharing Agreement**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa reviewed the history of the priorities of the three regions, how staff complement grew out of those priorities, and how the ministry sharing agreement ultimately evolved from that. Cheryl-Ann asked if the three Executives would be willing to extend the current agreement until Dec 31, 2022 in light of the change of GC44 and other considerations. Some discussion and questions for clarification ensued.

**Discussion Standardizing Budgets**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa then continued with the governance and structure which aligned with the budget, noting that that the categories within the existing three regional councils causes a good deal of work at the back end. Following an outlining the proposal, which was generally supported, there was a Q & A session to clarify some of the detail and implications of standardizing budgets across the regions.

[Break 10:50 AM – 11 AM]

**Introduction of WOW Executive & Community Building**

Mark Laird (President, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council) introduced himself, following which members of the Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Executive introduced themselves in turn. This was followed by a break-out room session by regional council. The WOW Executive break-out questions were:

* Think of something that excites you about WOW or why you joined the Executive or some way in which you are seeing new life in WOW.

**Discuss 2022 Review of Regional Governance Structure and Ministry Sharing**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa said each Executive needs to establish an evaluation team comprising the President & one other person to establish how to do the review of the governance structure (which will be after GC44), connecting with people who have been involved with regional council, staff input, Executive & commission input, and general perceptions. She noted that many people are already GC representatives, so there is a need to ensure that the evaluation duties do not interfere with those roles.

Cheryl-Ann also noted that:

* Nominations for Moderator are outstanding and to think and tap on the shoulder those who would be suitable for that role.
* Giving Tuesday is our way to change the world.
* Her accountability report had been submitted and asked if there were any questions.

**Break-out Room Discussion Topic: Regional Council Recruitment & Engagement Ideas: Populating Resource Pools**

The meeting reverted to break-out rooms by Executive once again.

Mark Laird asked if there were any more expressions of interest following the last WOW Executive meeting – two were reported by Heather Leffler, one by Cathy Larmond.

Bruce Dickson questioned whether we ought to begin slotting persons into resource pools.

Heather Leffler said that people don’t know each other within our region and having meetings in person and chatting to others via Zoom & break-out rooms would be a way to build relationships.

Andrea Allan said that email announcements are helpful for communication but that the WOW website is not particularly useful to engage volunteers. She said that a personal worksheet could help volunteers discern their skills.

Heather Davies said that a resource pool gathering with a facilitator would be more focused than just a nebulous list, and that a group facilitator might help people find connection.

Brent Caslick said we’ve lost the community we had in presbytery, in some instances due to technology challenges. He added that many previous volunteers have backed out due to the uncertainty about how the new structures would work.

Jessica Cottrell noted the importance of a personal invitation rather than, for example, a broad general appeal (e.g., announcement from the pulpit)

Heather Leffler said the staff are doing a lot of the work, and there are good places for volunteers to help out. (E.g, tech support at a regional gathering.)

Following this break-out session, the executive members reported back to the main meeting.

Mark Laird closed the Tri-Executive meeting with a blessing at 12:05 PM

***[Break-out - Western Ontario Waterways Executive Meeting]***

Mark Laird 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 Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

**Ministry Sharing Agreement**

Moved by: Bruce Dickson

Seconded by: Heather Leffler

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive agrees to extend the Ministry Sharing Agreement until December 31, 2022 after updating the position titles.

Mark Laird declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**Common Budget Categories**

Moved by: Heather Davies

Seconded by: Jessica Cottrell

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive agrees to adopt the following common budget categories:

* Regional Operations
* Communities of Faith
* Pastoral Relations
* Communication
* Connecting
* Faith Formation
* Chaplaincy
* Right Relations
* Social Justice and Outreach
* Office Operations
* Building Expenses
* Emerging Ministries

Mark Laird declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**Planning for Evaluation**

Moved by: Heather Davies

Seconded by: Cathy Larmond

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive agrees to name Heather Leffler who, along with the President, will represent the regional council on the Evaluation Planning Team.

Mark Laird declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Mark Laird noted that the next Executive meeting is in January and the same day as a racial justice training session. Brent Caslick noted that several applicants had been received for candidacy & asked for clarification of the grant process.

The meeting ended at 12:25 PM.

Next meeting: January 19th, 2022