**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

January 13, 2022, 7:00 pm, Zoom Call

Roster: (9) **A**nn Harbridge, Sandy Loomis, 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

Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice

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

## Regrets: Judy Chalmers

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: Matthew Lindsay (text to follow).

Opening Worship: Ann Harbridge opened with prayer.

## Opening Agreements:

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** on the agenda as amended.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree t**o approve the minutes of November 25, 2021, as circulated.

The commission members agreed to make Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice a corresponding member.

## Business Arising

1. Underwood-Wesley PC – Approval of disbursements. Confirmation of Email vote on Dec. 22, 2021. Approved.

MOTION Marg Krauter / Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways regional council approve the disbursement of assets by Underwood Wesley Pastoral Charge, of approximately $249,167.02, pending any final adjustments. Approved by the congregation, on Dec. 19, 2021 with the following breakdown for disbursement of the 30% determined by the congregation.

Silver Lake 13%

Food Grains 7%

Port Elgin United 6%

Grey Bruce Chaplaincy 4%

The balance to be distributed according to the Regional Property Policy.

Further, that the Commission set the disbandment of the congregation as Dec. 31, 2021. CARRIED

1. Racial Justice Training: A follow-up session is being made available for those who missed the first session. The registration information was circulated again for those who missed the initial email.

## Consent Docket

1. Correspondence
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Rev. Randy Mackenzie to Glen Morris UC beginning 211201-211217 (had to change because he is HFRC)
   2. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa to Glen Morris from 211217 – 220110
   3. Micol Cottrell to fill in for meeting on January 6, 2022
   4. John Neff to Central Westside UC, Owen Sound beginning 220101
   5. Johanna VanderSpek to Trinity UC, Grand Valley beginning January 7, 2022
   6. Christine Smaller to Highland UC, Eugenia beginning January 7, 2022
   7. Marg Krauter to Dundalk UC beginning January 7, 2022
   8. Greg Smith-Young to Alma UC beginning Jan 14, 2022
3. Documents received
   1. Kincardine UC – Approval for new Governance Structure
   2. Glen Morris UC – Governance Model, Financial Viability Worksheet, Financial statement

Glen Morris United Church community of faith is viable to appoint a supply minister up to Category A for 10 hours per week.

Note: Glen Morris will be looking for fulltime. In the meantime, they are appointing another local minister to for ¼ time to make the ministry personnel a full time position (with St. Luke’s UC, Cambridge – ¾ time).

Note: Ministry personnel needs to be on the executive committee of the official board. John Neff has asked Glen Morris to make that addition to the governance structure document.

* 1. Georgian Shores UC, Owen Sound – Self-Assessment
  2. St. John’s UC, Alliston – Self-Assessment
  3. Kilsyth UC – Financial Statement
  4. Knox UC, Ayr – Collaborative agreement with Fairview UC, Brantford (HFRC)
  5. Westminster UC, Waterloo – CoF Profile (awaiting recommendation)

Westminster Pastoral Charge, Waterloo community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category A for 20 hours per week.

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

## New Business

1. Glen Morris – Written update received for information from Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister. The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council affirms their support for the decision made that the manse not be rented to the student whose candidacy has ended.
2. Badjeros UC – Request to use restricted funds. Note: John Neff asked for further financial information as background which was provided.

**MOTION** Arthur Hills /Matthew Lindsay

That the Covenant Commission approve the request from Badjeros United Church to use restricted funds to cover the final costs of updating the church kitchen. **CARRIED**

1. Thérèse Samuel, Minister Right Relations and Social Justice, led a conversation on social justice/anti-oppression and reflected on two examples from the symbols currently used for covenanting with the region.

Thérèse discussed her dislike of, and the connotations associated with, the chain (slavery) and the walking stick (images tied to a walking stick assume that everyone has the ablebodied notion of walking). Commission members shared their thoughts and brainstormed a bit about possible alternatives to those two symbols (prayer shawl, Bible?).

Ann Harbridge suggested that commission members reflect on possible symbols and come back to the next meeting with a suggestion each and she invited Thérèse to contribute what would connect to her. Reach out to others in our communities and gather their ideas as well. To be included in “Business Arising” at the February meeting.

4. Lay Connections (email from Gary Clark)

Ann Harbridge referred to an email she received from Gary Clark suggesting that an invitation be made to lay regional council reps to gather; to encourage them to share how they are doing personally and how their congregations are doing.

The Commission agreed that an online gathering should be set up for lay representatives. John Neff will set up a one hour, evening, gathering for later in February, utilizing the clergy online gatherings format. There was some discussion about what the purpose/focus of the gathering would be. It was felt it could be more of a time for collegiality and connecting, sharing what’s happening in other churches. Also what do folks need, what avenues are there to become involved in the work of the regional council (resource pools?).

5. Commission Sharepoint

John Neff is continuing to work on the trial setup and testing of the Commission on Sharepoint.

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, Feb 10. by Zoom Call – 7 pm

Worship by: Norm Eygenraam

Land Acknowledgement: