**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

 ***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

February 10, 2022,7 pm, Zoom Call

Roster: (9) Ann 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

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

## Regrets: Arthur Hills, Sandy Loomis

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: Ann Harbridge

Opening Worship:Ann Harbridge Ann shared a prayer written by Alydia Smith connected to Black History Month <https://united-church.ca/prayers/light-world>

## 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 January 13, 2022 as circulated.

## Business Arising:

1. Covenanting Symbols

Commission members discussed possible symbols to replace the chain symbol currently used. It was agreed by consensus that olive oil, given its connection to the sacrament of baptism, will replace the chain as the symbol of “connecting”.

The commission agreed by consensus that the walking stick will continue to be used as the symbol of “supporting”, as the commission sees it as representative of assistance/support, not as a symbol of disability.

The commission agreed by consensus to continue to use the candle flame as the symbol for “transforming”.

John Neff and Bruce Gregerson will revise the wording of the covenanting service to the changes; including more explanation as to what the symbols reflect and why they were chosen.

1. Confirmation of Email votes

 220118 Email vote

  **MOTION:** Arthur Hills/Bruce Gregersen

 That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the Zion United Church, Crediton’s request for mould remediation with the initial costs of $55,465.90 to come from restricted Manse funds and the remaining to come from the Improvement Fund.

 **CARRIED.**

 220125 Email vote

**MOTION**: Arthur Hills / Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve to list for sale certain Real Property, the legal description of which is PT LT 44 CON 14 HULLETT AS IN HL827 & HL9369 EXCEPT R227761; MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL HURON, and the municipal address of which is 135 Goderich Street, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Knox United Church, Auburn, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as trustees, dated the 20th day of January, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Rick Lobb, Broker of Record, Royal LePage Heartland Realty

Commission rate: 4%

Asking price: $300,000

Exceptions: None

Proposed possession date: July 31, 2022.

**CARRIED.**

Margaret Bakker abstained from voting as this is her home church and therefore this would be a conflict of interest for her.

1. Lay Representatives gathering: Talk about blessings and challenges, similar format to pastoral charge supervisors recent meeting. Date of gathering is set for February 22, 2022 at 7 pm (John Neff hosting).

## Consent Docket:

1. Correspondence
	1. Letter from Glen Morris UC
	2. Trinity UC, Elmira – Redevelopment Update
	3. St. John’s UC, Alliston – Update of Redevelopment progress.
	4. Westminster UC, Orangeville - Update on NMDLF Grant: money received
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
	1. Katharine Edmonstone to Trinity UC, Kitchener for their meeting on January 19, 2022
	2. Cathie Stewart Savage to Trinity UC, Kitchener effective February 7, 2022
	3. Marianne Leach Hoffer to West Montrose UC effective February 1, 2022
3. PCS Reports
	1. Felicia Urbanski – Trinity UC, Grand Valley

John Neff noted PCS reports can be submitted online. Reports received to be listed in Covenant Commission meetings, added to the folder for review prior. Any queries by commission members regarding the reports can be addressed at a Covenant Commission meeting.

1. Documents received for information
	1. Glen Morris UC – Self Assessment & Letter

The question of adherents serving on the official board was raised in the letter from Glen Morris; as well as the police record check requirement.

The commission agreed to communicate to Glen Morris that the commission understands the difficulties faced and is prepared to address this as much as possible within our polity. Police record checks must be completed. However, under certain circumstances, a congregation can request that the Covenant Commission to approve non-members to serve in various capacities. The commission will continue to study and look at other options on the basis of where our polity is moving.

Ann Harbridge will draft a letter to Glen Morris outlining the above and she and John Neff will review and finalize.

* 1. West Montrose Financial Viability and Financial Statement – received
	2. Primrose Governance Structure – update on what they have laid out

Streamlined Council members:

* + - * 1. Chair
				2. Co-Chair
				3. Secretary
				4. Treasurer
				5. WOW Representative
				6. Ministry Personnel

There will be a Board of Trustees and a Ministry and Personnel Committee. These two committees and any others will function independently within their budget and mandate and report back to the Streamlined Council. Terms are for 2 years. Elections will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

* 1. Kilsyth UC – Updated CoF Profile, Self-assessment, Financial Statement

Received for information, but might include an appointment later.

* 1. Mount Forest Governance model

Approved based on pending changes that are required: adherents serving on official board will be approved by Covenant Commission and the minister does have a vote. John Neff will advise Mount Forest.

* 1. Huron Shores UC, Grand Bend - Financial Viability, Financial Statement, Living Faith Story

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the request of Huron Shores UC to appoint a Short-Term Supply for 40 hrs/wk at Category F.

1. Massie UC - Updated Title to Trustees of Massie United Church

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

Lifted from the Consent Docket: Disbandment of Dungannon United Church effective December 31, 2021

This was an oversite. The disbursements were approved but the disbandment was never set in a motion.

**MOTION**: Norm Eygenraam / Margaret Krauter

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disbands Dungannon United Church effective December 31, 2021.

**CARRIED**

## New Business:

1. Creation of Property Committee:
	1. Create
	2. Terms

Populate

Tri-regional proposal. To find a couple of people in each region with experience in property matters to do prior preparation work. For example, keep track of what’s happening with UPRC, update the Covenant Commission, bring forward any motions that are required.

It was agreed that the commission would review the terms of reference, as presented and updated by John Neff, prior to the next Covenant Commission meeting. To be reviewed again at the March meeting.

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors Gathering – 63 attendees for the tri-regional gathering. Based on feedback received, gatherings to be scheduled twice a year going forward.

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, March 10 by Zoom Call, 7 pm

Worship by: Bruce Gregersen

Land Acknowledgement: Margaret Bakker

Adjournment