**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

March 10, 2022, **[7 pm]**, Zoom Call

Roster: (8) Ann Harbridge, Margaret 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, Margaret Bakker, Judy Chalmers, , Arthur Hills, Bruce Gregersen, Marg Krauter

## Regrets: Norm Eygenraam, Matthew Lindsay

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: Margaret Bakker shared Camp Menesetung’s land acknowledgement.

“Menesetung is a Chippewa word meaning “Laughing Waters” in reference to the nearby Menesetung river now called the Maitland River (Lee, 2004). 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. 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:Bruce Gregersen shared a Scripture reading, a poem by Mary Oliver “*Almost A Conversation”* and closed with prayer.

## Opening Agreements

Corresponding members:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** to receive Fran Farrell, Jim Farrell, Dan Griffin, from St. Andrew’s UC, Ripley, as corresponding members to this meeting.

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 February 10, 2022 as circulated.

## Business Arising

1. Symbols used for covenanting with region.

The Covenant Commission identifies its work with communities of faith within the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council through three main lenses:

**Connecting** Symbol: Olive Oil

Olive Oil is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of protection and to represent the presence of Christ. We use it today to remind us that we are all connected in our baptism to the body of Christ.

**Supporting** Symbol: Walking Stick

Agreed to change the wording for the walking stick to the following:

The Walking Stick reminds us that from time to time we all need support. As we walk together with Christ may we know that we do not walk alone.

**Transforming** Symbol: Candle

Lighting the Candle reminds us that Jesus is in our midst to bring transformation and new life.

John Neff will change the wording in the current documentation in the toolkit. To make the symbol of olive oil visible to people, **agreed by consensus** to include instructions to pour olive oil from a glass pitcher into a clear glass bowl (or glass vessel of some kind).

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisor Recruiters
   1. Possibility of hiring someone for 8 hrs a month at pulpit supply rate.
   2. From CC budget.

**Agreed by consensus** that John Neff move forward with implementing this plan.

## Consent Docket

Motions were lifted out of the consent docket and addressed under “New Business”.

1. Correspondence: No correspondence received.
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Drew Maxwell to Trinity UC, Elmira from April 18-July 18 sabbatical plus vacation of ministry personnel
   2. Kevin Steeper to Huron Shores UC, Grand Bend for AGM on March 13, 2022
3. Pastoral Charge Supervisor Reports: A report is now submitted by the pastoral charge supervisor when their work with a congregation is completed.
4. Documents received for information

Rosemary Benbow has expressed a willingness to do short term tasks, i.e. read documents. **Agreed** by consensus, that Rosemary Benbow be asked to review annual reports. John Neff will reach out to Rosemary. John Neff has developed a more in-depth checklist of what to look at in annual reports.

[Check list for Annual Reports Review - Copy.docx](https://unitedchurch.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/CovenantCommission/EQO9HhWqaCdEpIw9yiEE_FoBM-bQSoxt-vnpU2TXK4S2ag?e=YjOaFl)

* 1. 2021 Annual Reports
     1. Clinton UC
     2. Angus UC
     3. Erin UC
     4. Rockwood UC
     5. Stone UC, Rockwood
     6. Calvary UC, St. Jacobs
     7. Parkminster UC, Waterloo
     8. St. John’s UC, Alliston
     9. Knox UC, Belgrave
     10. Londesborough UC
     11. Thames Road – Elimville PC
     12. Avondale UC, Stratford
     13. Dublin St. UC, Guelph
     14. Brucefield UC
     15. Tottenham UC; Rich Hill UC
     16. Harriston UC
     17. Grace UC, Hanover
     18. Glen Morris UC
     19. Zion UC, New Hamburg
     20. Dobbinton UC
     21. Trinity UC, Shelburne; Primrose UC
     22. Calvary Memorial UC, Kitchener
     23. Port Elgin UC
     24. Trinity UC, Listowel
     25. Trinity UC, Annan
     26. Emmanuel UC, Waterloo
     27. Kincardine UC
     28. Trinity UC, Collingwood
     29. Grace UC, Tavistock
     30. Wyevale UC
     31. Badjeros UC
  2. Keady-North Derby UC – CoF Profile, Self-Assessment. They may be looking at a short-term appointment while their minister is on leave. Kilsyth information has already been received.
  3. Trinity UC, Annan – Financial report
  4. Clifford Pastoral Charge (Alsfeldt UC, Knox UC) – Living Faith Story

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

## New Business:

1. Motions lifted from Consent Docket
2. Tobermory UC – Community of faith Profile. Tobermory is also considering to be a SME site.

**MOTION** Marg Krauter / Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves Tobermory United Church community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week. **CARRIED**

1. Knox UC, Paisley – Community of faith Profile

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves that Knox UC, Paisley Community of Faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 13 hours per week. **CARRIED**

The Covenant Commission expresses its concern that 13 hours per week may not allow for the provision of pension and benefits.

1. Glen Morris UC– Community of Faith Profile

**MOTION** Marg Krauter / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves that Glen Morris UC Community of Faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category B for 40 hours per week. **CARRIED**

1. Forest Hill UC, Kitchener – Community of faith Profile

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves that Forest Hills UC, Kitchener Community of Faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 20 hours per week. **CARRIED**

1. Westminster UC, Orangeville – Financial Viability. Westminster is making arrangements with Bruce Gregersen to serve in a short-term appointment while the current minister is on leave.

**MOTION** Arthur / Margaret B that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves that Westminster UC, Orangeville Community of Faith is viable for a short-term appointment of a minister up to Category F for 30 hours per week. **CARRIED 1 Abstention: Bruce Gregersen**

1. Disbandment of Fordwich UC

**MOTION** Marg Krauter / Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disband Fordwich United Church of the Fordwich Pastoral Charge effective March 10, 2022. **CARRIED**

1. St. Andrew’s UC, Ripley – Request to use Manse funds (Stated hour of 7:30 for Ripley Representatives)

Ann Harbridge welcomed Jim Farrell, a trustee; Dan Griffin, a trustee; and Fran Farrell, chair of the official board and M&P Committee member, from St. Andrew’s, Ripley.

The three representatives spoke to the request submitted by the members and trustees of St. Andrew’s; noting that the furnace recently broke down and there is an urgent need to have it repaired or replaced. Covenant Commission noted that expenses, as noted in the financial viability worksheet, have been higher than revenue for the past 6 years. The manse fund has been in effect since 2006.

The St. Andrew’s representatives left the meeting, with thanks for their attendance.

**MOTION Arthur Hills / Margaret Bakker**

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the request of the Trustees and members of St. Andrew’s, Ripley, to use up to $68,000 from the manse fund for furnace repair and salaries.

The Covenant Commission requires that St. Andrew’s do the following:

1. Undertake a stewardship campaign
2. Undertake a review of their long-term financial viability
3. Present a plan to the Covenant Commission to balance the 2023 budget.
4. Review with Covenant Commission in 6 months. **CARRIED**

John Neff will ask Dave Jagger, Community of Faith Stewardship Lead, to contact St. Andrew’s in regards to undertaking a stewardship campaign.

1. Knox UC, Durham – Roof Repair

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the repair of the church roof.

**CARRIED 1 Abstention: Marg Krauter**

Note: John Neff will keep all the pcs reports/data on the Sharepoint site.

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, April 21, 7 PM, by Zoom Call

Worship by:

Land Acknowledgement: Arthur Hills

## Adjournment