## Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

## Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting

# Thursday, May 13, 2021

(*“Being Kicked out of the Boat”*)

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council was called to meet on Thursday, May 13, 2021 via Zoom teleconference. Approximately 176 participants attended this meeting. An online hymn sing preceded the opening of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**

Gary Clark welcomed everyone and opened this meeting’s session at 7:03 PM, after which the meeting was directed to the sacred fire at Cape Croker United Church. Ken Albert introduced the sacred fire from the Cape Croker palisade, then opened with a prayer. Ken said that the fire is important for gatherings and meetings, a connecting element that brings us all together.

Acknowledgement of the Territory was led by Gord Dunbar & Heather Davies

Gary Clark 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 first meeting of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of the meeting shall be this Zoom call.

1. **Opening & Procedural Motions**

**Moved by**: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa

**Seconded by**: Rod Coates

That the regional council adopt the following as a consent docket (Page 16/17 of workbook):

1. Adopt the agenda as circulated and authorize the Agenda and Business Committee to make any changes as necessary.
2. Approve the minutes of the October 15-18, 2020 meeting.
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

2020-09-15

2020-09-16

2020-11-10

2020-12-16

2021-01-14

2021-02-17

2021-03-17

1. Covenant Commission

2020-07-21

2020-07-29

2020-09-10

2020-10-08

2020-11-05

2020-12-10

2021-01-14

2021-02-11

2021-03-04

2021-03-11

1. Human Resources Commission

2020-09-15

2020-10-20

2020-11-17

2020-12-15

2021-01-19

2021-02-16

2021-03-16

1. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2020-08-27

2020-11-01

2020-12-15

for information.

*[Note:  Minutes are posted on the website*[*www.wowrcucc.ca*](http://www.wowrcucc.ca/)*“About” page]*

1. Appoint Tim Reaburn as Parliamentarian.
2. Name President Gary Clark, President-Elect, Mark Laird, Parliamentarian Tim Reaburn, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Secretary Rod Coates and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee.
3. Name regional council staff members John Neff, Sue Duliban, Pretima Kukadia-Kinting and Ruthanna Mack as scrutineers.
4. Name Deborah Deavu as Equity Support Team Member.
5. Set the bounds of the meeting as the Zoom call
6. Make the designated representative from any United Church ministry, other than a congregation, which has been invited to become a community of faith by entering into a covenant with the regional council, a member of the regional council for this meeting (Section C.1.2 c).
7. Make all guests corresponding members.
8. Set the deadline for nominations for General Council Commissioners as midnight, Thursday, May 13, 2021.
9. Set the deadline for Expressions of Interest for Regional Council Executive and Commission members as midnight Friday, May 14, 2021.
10. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 6:00 p.m., Friday, May 14, 2021.
11. Adopt the following method for dealing with proposals for action by the regional council.

Step One:

The Presenter will outline

1. What is the issue? And
2. The suggested way in which the regional council might respond to the issue.

Step Two:

The President will inquire if there are questions for clarification. Please note this is for clarification only.

Step Three:

The President will then ask if there are changes or additions being suggested for the proposal. Using warm and cool signals, the regional council will seek to come closer to agreement on how to respond to the issue.

Step Four:

Once there is significant agreement, the President will invite the Presenter to move the motion at which point the regional council enters the formal debate process.

Gary Clark asked if anything wished to be lifted, or questions of clarification.

Gary Clark declared the motion **CARRIED**.

1. **Worship Time**

Gary Clark introduced Jenn Hind-Urquhart, who outlined some of the elements to be addressed during worship. Jenn Hind-Urquhart & Heather Davies began with a series of opening invocations to worship. Worship included:

* Alicia Keys video– “Good Job” - cover by Utah Children’s Chorus.
* Hymn – “My Soul is Thirsting for You, O Lord” (MV109)
* Jonah 1:1-4 & 11-16 by Joyce Johnston

Gary Clark delivered a reflection on the scripture passages from Jonah, noting that Jonah was more than a reluctant prophet, and that God had to literally throw him out of the boat to get him do as directed.

The sacrament of communion was celebrated by Gary Clark & Joyce Johnston.

Jenn Hind-Urquhart shared community prayers, inviting holding up of the names of those whom they wish to remember.

Concluding worship, Gord Dunbar asked for sharing of fears during this time of pandemic.

1. **Breakout Groups - Community Building**

Gary Clark introduced break-out rooms as a community building exercise, asking that participants in each virtual room address the following questions:

* Name, church
* How is your church doing?
* Is your church with Jonah or with Nineveh?

Meeting participants were assigned to multiple virtual break-out rooms to exchange their thoughts on these questions.

1. **General Council 44 & Representatives**

Gary Clark introduced Tim Reaburn, who explained GC44 will be held in Calgary virtually in 2022. A video featuring Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa introduced the General Council concepts, as well as the nomination and election process for representatives (i.e., commissioners).

Gary Clark noted that voting on the first round of commissioners would occur tomorrow, and that the deadline for expressions of interest for commissioners is tonight.

Tim Reaburn said the process for election was determined in November 2020, with six (6) commissioners elected on the first round of voting, and six (6) commissioners on the second round of voting.

1. **Closing for the Day**

Gary Clark said that we had come to slightly passed the order of the day, and closed the meeting at 8:34 PM, noting that we would resume at 4 PM tomorrow.

## Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

## Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting

# Friday, May 14, 2021

(*“Being Kicked out of the Boat”*)

1. **Opening worship**

Jenn Hind-Urquhart led with an opening reading from Jonah 2: 3, then continued with a meditation on the passage which focused on the imagery of water. Jenn concluded by turning over to Gary Clark for a closing prayer, including prayers for the family of Mike Savage. Approximately 173 persons attended this session.

1. **Introduction of GC44 Commissioner Process**

Tim Reaburn provided some of the background for the process of election of GC (General Council) commissioners, and why there were two elections. Tim noted that there were fewer applicants than available positions, so no election is required.

1. **GC44 Commissioner Information Videos**

A video was presented with Western Ontario Waterways regional council commissioners relating their experiences from GC43. This was followed by a video presentation with Tim Reaburn detailing the work of GC commissioners and an invitation to all to stand as a commissioner.

1. **Commission Check-in**

**Covenant Commission – Ann Harbridge**

Ann Harbridge briefly outlined some of the responsibilities of the Covenant Commission. Referencing Western Ontario Waterways website resources, Ann provided context for:

* Covenanting with Communities of Faith (COF’s).
* COF Profile
* Self-Assessment
* Annual report
* Updating ChurchHub information

**Mission & Discipleship – Bruce Dickson**

Bruce Dickson described a vision of what Mission means, including statements from other members of the Mission & Discipleship Commission. This was followed by a similar series of statements of what Discipleship means.

**Human Resources Commissions – Micol Cottrell**

Micol Cottrell introduced newly-recognized Licenced Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL’s), noting that the fall regional council meeting will recognize previously approved LLWL’s.

The LLWL program was described by Marion Boyd. This was followed by JoAnne Angle, who named the new LLWL’s:

* Norm Eygenraam
* Phyllis Fleming
* Susan Humphrey
* Tammy Oswick

A recognition service for the new LLWL’s included:

* Singing of “Deep in our Hearts”
* Liturgy led by Micol Cottrell, JoAnne Angle, & Gary Clark.
* Singing of “Dance With The Spirit”

Gary Clark asked for if there were any questions for any of the commissions.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa asked how many LLWL’s were in the region. Marion Boyd said there were almost 30 and that the keeper of the LLWL list is Diane Blanchard.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa asked who is to be contacted if a community of faith is doing renovations. Ann Harbridge said to contact John Neff, who would identify thresholds for needing regional council approval.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa suggested that each commission comment on how well they felt they were doing. Ann Harbridge, Micol Cottrell, and Bruce Dickson each provided a thumbnail sketch of some highlights of the past year, including accomplishments and concerns.

1. **Breakout Groups - Community Building**

Gary Clark announced the break-out rooms, asking that participants in each room address the following questions:

* Name, church
* How is your church connected with the regional Staff or commission?
* What would you need from the Regional Staff?

Meeting participants then split into multiple virtual break-out rooms to exchange thoughts on these questions.

1. **Closing**

Gary Clark noted that we had come to the end of the afternoon session, thanked everyone for their attendance, then closed this session at 4:35 PM.

**[BREAK]**

1. **Opening Prayer & Hymn Sing**

The meeting opened at 7:02 PM with a video recording of Sheila Robson performing a water song. This was followed by Joyce Johnston leading in prayer.

Approximately 171 participants attended this session.

1. **Election of GC44 Commissioners**

Gary Clark presented the GC44 nominations, noting that they would be acclaimed since there were fewer nominations than available positions. [Note: The nominations list appears as Appendix #1]

To address the missing positions, the following motion was proposed:

**Moved by**: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa

**Seconded by**: Rod Coates

That Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council directs its Executive to seek additional Commissioners to honour the regional council's commitment to diversity and to ensure the necessary balance and full complement of Commissioners and alternates for General Council 44.

Gary Clark declared the motion **CARRIED**.

1. **Southampton Hub / Rural Connect Presentation**

Gary Clark introduced Heather Davies, minister at Southampton United Church, who spoke of the need for change and the opportunity provided by the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. The presentation was made by Meryl Gillmore and Ann-Marie Collins, who are part of the tech team for Southampton United. Meryl provided an overview of the multi-site worship through technology. Ann-Marie then provided details about Rural Connect, a cluster of congregations joined together in interactive live worship with participation from partner churches. Additional information is available on the Southampton United church website.

The project is now at the point of inviting other churches to join and others were encouraged to consider participation. The technology can be used for activities other than worship. This technology supports the mission of outreach for Southampton United Church. Meryl suggested checking the church’s website and social media accounts for more information. Meryl & Ann-Marie concluded their presentation by answering several questions from participants.

1. **Breakout Groups**

Gary Clark said that we would be going into break-out rooms to follow up discussions related to the Hub presentation, as follows:

* Name, church
* What do you see as the biggest stumbling block to working with other communities of faith?

Following break-out room sessions and returning to the main meeting room, comments from the breakout groups were posted to the Zoom Chat box.

Gary Clark thanked everyone for the comments received about the Hub presentation and working with other communities of faith. Gary asked for any additional comments which would address ways in which the regional council or regional council staff might help.

1. **Closing**

Gary Clark said that we were at the end of the agenda and time this evening. He assigned a homework question, “*If you are not involved in the wider church, what are the stumbling blocks that are keeping you from doing that?*”

Gary Clark thanked Heather Davies, Ann-Marie Collins & Meryl Gillmore for their presentations.

After declaring the meeting ended at 8:32 PM, Gary wished rest for all for the remainder of the evening and reminded us of the 9 AM start tomorrow.

## Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

## Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting

# Saturday, May 15, 2021

(*“Being Kicked out of the Boat”*)

1. **Welcome**

Gary Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approximately 166 participants attended this session.

1. **Sacred Fire**

Ken Albert introduced the sacred fire at Cape Croker, acknowledging that today is a new day built upon the ashes of yesterday’s fire.

1. **Opening worship**

The worship team led opening worship, which included Jonah 1:15 as the opening theme with accompanying video and prayers. Heather Davies closed the worship session with prayer.

1. **Announcements**

Gary Clark thanked the worship team for their work and reminded the meeting of last night’s homework question: “*If you are not involved in the wider church, what are the stumbling blocks that are keeping you from doing that?*”

Meeting attendees provided comments via the Zoom Chat box.

1. **Moderator’s Video**

A video for this Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Regional Council gathering was presented featuring an address by the Right Reverend Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church. Richard Bott spoke about the impact of the past year’s pandemic, the look-forward with the developing strategic plan, and the 2022 General Council.

1. **Staff Support Video**

John Smith provided an outline of the work of the staff support committee, acknowledging the wonderful work of our WOW staff.

1. **New Executive and Regional Council Commission Members**

Gary Clark presented the list of new Executive and Regional Council Commission Members and declared them acclaimed to their office. [Note: This list appears as Appendix #2]

1. **Jubilands, In Memoriams, Closings**

A short video was presented which recognized ministry personnel who have served, those who have passed away, and church closings.

1. **Stewardship & Gifts Officer**

Dave Jagger, Stewardship & Gifts Officer, began his presentation with an example of churches pooling their resources which allowed them to fulfill a mission to “Love God with everything you are and love your neighbours as yourselves”.

The meeting broke into smaller groups to discuss the following question:

In addition to Mission & Service, which is our best example

1. What resources could your community of faith give away, beyond your bubble, to help other communities of faith?
2. What resources does your community of faith need to find?

Smaller Break-out rooms discussed these questions for 15 minutes.

Following the break-out room sessions, Dave Jagger outlined various stewardship resources available, including:

* Called to be the Church (Congregational Giving Program)
* Online stewardship modules.
* E-newsletter (“God’s Mission - Our Gifts”)
* Stewardship website - [www.unitedchurch.ca/stewardship](http://www.unitedchurch.ca/stewardship)

Bruce Dickson proposed a motion on behalf of the Mission & Discipleship Commission.

**Moved by**: Bruce Dickson

Seconded by: Jenn Hind-Urquhart

That Western Ontario Waterways regional council representatives be encouraged to take to their home community of faith to pray for a just peace and to take up the Moderators’ encouragement to put faith into action by writing Federal Minster, Marc Garneau. To urge Israel to uphold international law.

Gary Clark declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**[BREAK]**

1. **Welcome**

Gary Clark called the meeting to order and resumed proceedings at 10:40 AM.

1. **Sacred Fire**

Joyce Johnston re-introduced the sacred fire from Cape Croker.

1. **Worship**

Gord Dunbar introduced the worship session which included an opening prayer, Jingle dance by Jaylynn Wolfe to recognize Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), and a closing prayer for reconciliation.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer Sampa reminded the meeting that we would be blessed with the presence of Sen Murray Sinclair on May 28th.

1. **Erik Mathiesen Presentation**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa introduced Erik Mathiesen, the United Church’s Chief Financial Officer, who presented “Assessments – Essential but unloved”.

Erik Mathiesen explained the basis of Remit 4 and the changes to the assessment model approved at the time of the remit’s approval. Revenue was the basis of new model, and fairest measure of ability to pay. Assessments would move with the congregational revenue, and that new model was to be fully implemented in 2022.

Erik said that General Council Executive has recommended a one-year extension to full implementation. If a community of faith is within $500 of its assessment target the change will take effect in 2022; if the gap is larger than $500, 50% of the change would occur in 2022 and 50% in 2023. Investments will be assessed at 0.25% of 1%, with the first $100,000 exempt.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa reminded the meeting of the importance and need to submit statistics, and that ChurchHub allows input of the regional council representative names, which would be appreciated.

Tim Reaburn said that the recommended changes to assessment model implementation will be approved by General Council 43 recall in the fall of 2021.

1. **Closing**

Gary Clark noted that we had completed the morning agenda and reminded the court to return for its final session at 1:25 PM for the sacred fire.

**[BREAK]**

1. **Re-Opening Routines**

Gary Clark called the meeting to order at 1 PM and welcomed everyone back to the final session of the meeting. Approximately 145 participants attended this session. Gary noted that the sacred fire at Cape Croker continues to burn during our meeting.

Announcements:

* Hon Mr Murray Sinclair – May 28th.
* We are One – Celebration of Affirming Ministry – June 6th.
* Fall Meeting – Nov 12-14, including Celebration of Ministry
1. **Breakout Groups**

Gary Clark said that we would be going into break-out rooms for follow up discussions as follows:

* Name, Church
* What will you be taking back to your community of faith from this regional council meeting?
* We will be meeting virtually again in the fall, what would you like to see more of or less of at that time?
1. **Closing Motions**

**Moved by**: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

**Seconded by**: Rod Coates

That the Regional Council:

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its May 13-15, 2021 meeting to the Executive.
2. Authorize the Executive to fill any vacancies on the understanding that appointments will be confirmed at the next regional council meeting.
3. Direct the Executive to plan to convene a meeting of the regional council in the fall of 2021; and
4. Entrust the Executive and Commissions with the responsibilities and authority of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council in accordance with the Manual of The United Church of Canada and the Governance Handbook of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.
5. Close the May 13-15, 2021 meeting of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at the end of the covenanting with GC44 Commissioners, new Executive and Commission members on Saturday, May 15.

Gary Clark declared this motion CARRIED.

1. **Courtesies**

Gary Clark extended thanks to those who had assisted with this regional council meeting:

* Planners of meeting – for taking the theme with great gusto
* Mark Laird – President Elect, not installed today due to health issues.
* Heather Davies, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Sue Duliban, & Deborah Deavu.
* Worship team – Heather Davies, Gord Dunbar, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Mark Laird, Joyce Johnston & Ken Albert.
* Cape Croker – for their hospitality during this meeting.
* Ruthanna Mack & Pretima Kukadia-Kinting for their assistance.
* Greg Smith-Young for tech support at last moment. As well as Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Thérèse Samuel.
* Chairs of commissions & members for their work and leadership.
* Thanks to delegates for the time spent in participating in this event.

Heather Leffler thanked Gary Clark for his gracious and caring leadership, especially after taking over from the transition team & having the experience of the pandemic added to the challenge. She also thanked Forest Hill United for their support to Gary Clark so that he could care for us.

1. **Closing Worship**

Closing worship was led by Heather Davies and Jenn Hind-Urquhart, including an opening call to worship, “Let Us Build a House” (More Voices #1), and prayers of thanksgiving.

1. **Covenanting with New Members of Regional Executive**

Gary Clark led a covenant liturgy for new members of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council commissions and Executive members.

Tim Reaburn led a covenant liturgy with those elected as General Council Commissioners.

Gary Clark led a covenant liturgy with the regional council staff.

Maggie Dieter read Jonah 2:10, 3:1-5. Gord Dunbar provided a prayer, then presented a meditation based on this Jonah passage which focused on our current life, and the hope we have in transforming ourselves from our pandemic situation.

Jenn Hind-Urquhart led the meeting in community prayers.

Gord Dunbar noted that oftentimes we provide an offering to M&S and suggested we consider doing so in whatever way we are moved. The United Church website was noted as a place where M&S donations could be made: <https://united-church.ca/donate>

The closing hymn was “I See a New Heaven” (Voices United #713)

1. **Sacred Fire – Ending**

Ken Albert, from Cape Croker, completed a ceremony of closing the sacred fire, including an offering of berries & fish.

1. **Benediction**

The meeting closed with a Benediction and Prayer For Our Community by Richard Rohr, modified for our service today.

Moved by Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa that the Regional Council Meeting be adjourned.

Gary Clark thanked everyone for their presence today. The meeting closed at 3:15 PM.

**WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS**

**COMMISSIONERS TO GENERAL COUNCIL 44**

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to serve as General Council Commissioners. Nominations closed as of midnight, Thursday, May 13, 2021.

With the agreed-upon deadline for nominations as of midnight, May 13, 2021, the following nominees will be acclaimed to their role by the President.

The regional council made a commitment to diversity in November 2019 and will be asked to direct the Executive to fulfill this.

Indigenous Commissioners (2)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Lay* | *Ministry Personnel* |
|  | Joyce Johnston |

Diversity Commissioners (4)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Lay* | *Ministry Personnel* |
|  | Rebekah Duncan |
|  | Alex Jebson |

General Ballot (7)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Lay* | *Ministry Personnel* |
| Brent Caslick | Gary Clark |
| Peter Kudelka | Heather Davies |
| Cathie Stewart Savage | Laurie O’Leary |
| Judy Zarubick |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

 **Executive & Commissions: Terms/Vacancies @ May 2021**

**Executive:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| President, Gary Clark OM (21) Will move to past president, serving until 2022 | Andrea Allan OM (23)  | Jessica Cottrell OM (21)Expression of interest submitted |
| Secretary, Rod Coates (22)  | Heather Davies OM (22)  | Joyce Johnston  |
| Treasurer, Brent Caslick (22) | Heather Leffler OM (23)  | Tim Reaburn OM (21) Diversity |
| President-Elect, Mark Laird DM (23) | Terry Smith (23) CC | + Micol Cottrell (HRC), Bruce Dickson (M&DC) |

**Covenant Commission:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chair, Ann Harbridge DLM (21) Expression of interest submitted | Margaret Bakker (23) | Judy Chalmers (23)  |
| Kate Crawford OM (22) | Arthur Hills (23) | Matthew Lindsay (23)  |
| Sandy Loomis (21) | Norm Eygenraam (23)  |  |

**Human Resources Commission**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chair, Micol Cottrell OM (22)  | JoAnne Angle (21)Expression of interest submitted | Marion Boyd (21) Expression of interest submitted |
| Gwen Good (23) | Douglas Hayward (23)  | Cathy Larmond OM (23)  |
| Cecil Omand (21)  | Russell Rogers RDLM (23) | Tom Slumskie (22) |
| Mel Spencer (23)  | Carol Stephenson (22) | Jane Sullivan OM (23) CC |

**Mission & Discipleship Commission:** Must elect 1. Can elect up to 6.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Acting Chair, Bruce Dickson OM (22)  | Edith Coyle UCW (23)  | Rodger Filsinger (23) |
| Gail Fricker OM (23)  | Mary Hawthorne (22)  | Jenn Hind-Urquhart OM (23)  |
| Joyce Osborne (21)  |  |  |