**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

**April 21, 2022, [7 pm], Zoom Call**

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

## Regrets: Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam

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: Arthur Hills

Opening Worship:Ann Harbridge shared a reflection “He was in the world” by John Bell and closed with prayer.

## 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 March 10, 2022 as circulated.

## Business Arising:

1. Rosemary Benbow has agreed to be on the resource pool to review annual reports.
2. Recording of email vote of March 24, 2022. Ebenezer UC, Campbellville – Collaborative agreement

**MOTION:** Norm Eygenraam/Margaret Bakker that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the Collaborative agreement between Ebenezer UC, Campbellville and Trinity UC, Acton (HFRC) and affirm that Ebenezer UC, Campbellville is viable to call/appoint a minister up to category C for 20 hrs.

**MOTION CARRIED**

This will be a fulltime call/appointment between both congregations. This is a reduction in Category for Ebenezer to be in keeping with Trinity UC, Acton.

1. Recording of email vote of April 4, 2022. Sale of Knox UC, Auburn.

**MOTION:** Marg Krauter/Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the sale of 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, Auburn, ON N0M 1E0; pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Knox United Church, Auburn, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller, and Nikki Huber and Jason Huber as Purchaser, dated the 31st day of March, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

• Purchaser: Nikki Huber and Jason Huber

• Sale price: $425,610

• Deposit: $10,000

• Balance due: $425,610 on closing

• Warranties/conditions: septic in working order at closing; pump tank and provide receipt by July 20, 2022

• Closing date: August 3, 2022

• Realtor: Rick Lobb, Broker of Record, Royal LePage Heartland Realty

and that the funds will be kept in trust by the Trustees of Knox United Church, Auburn.

**MOTION CARRIED**. 1 Abstention (Margaret Bakker as it is her church).

## Consent Docket:

1. Correspondence: None
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. St. Andrew’s UC, Bayfield May-Aug while John is away: needed
   2. Central Westside UC, Owen Sound May-Aug while John is away: Marg Krauter
   3. Mary Elizabeth Piercy to Trinity UC, Collingwood effective October 11, 2021
   4. Paul Parkin to Meaford UC for Annual meeting on Sunday April 24, 2022
   5. Brenda Woodall to Emmanuel Waterloo June 1until October 1for Sabbatical plus 1 month holidays

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| **CoF** | **Notes** | **Topic** | **PCS Name** | | **PCS Start** |
| Angus United Church | Norm is on leave. They are vacant | Lay Led | | Ann Harbridge | 04-21-2022 |
| Arkell United Church |  | Change in PR | | Needed | 07-01-2022 |
| Cedar Hill United Church, Cambridge | CoF Profile approved | Search | | Needed | 08-01-2021 |
| Goldstone United Church | Summer services only | Interaction | | Needed | 01-01-2019 |
| Grenfel United Church | Norm Munroe no longer there. | Lay Led | | Ann Harbridge | 04-21-2022 |
| Harcourt Memorial United Church | Miriam Flynn has requested a change in pastoral relations, effective June 30, 2022. John Lawson is with us short term. | Change in PR | | Needed | 07-01-2022 |
| St. James-Rosemount United Church, Kitchener | 220308 - Chris Fickling is organizing a sabbatical. | Sabbatical | | Needed | 07-01-22 |

1. PCS Reports – Please see “PCS Reports” SharePoint Library – what is being done with these? John Neff talked about how the library is laid out, explaining the different sections and how to view the information. The form is filled in on the website and auto populates to Sharepoint.

Query raised by Gary Clark, in his pastoral charge supervision report. “Whose responsibility is it to promote regular ministry? How long would the Commission wait before it stepped in to say Pastoral Supervision is supposed to be a transitional stage not a cheaper ministry strategy?”

After some discussion ranging from paying pastoral charge supervisors, creating a policy for paying lay led congregations and the need to establish parameters, it was agreed to add this discussion to the agenda for the next meeting of the Covenant Commission. John Neff will follow-up with Gary Clark and advise him of this.

It was agreed that PCS reports be listed like annual reports on the agenda. Status button to be added so that the Commission can address issues that may be raised. Status choices: Needs Attention, No Action Required, Complete.

1. Documents received for information
   1. Annual reports:
      1. Alma UC
      2. Bloomingdale UC
      3. Blyth UC
      4. Brucefield UC
      5. Brussels UC
      6. Clinton UC
      7. Creemore –New Lowell PC (St. John’s UC, Creemore, New Lowell UC)
      8. Eramosa PC (Barrie Hill UC, Speedside UC)
      9. Georgian Shores UC, Owen Sound
      10. Gorrie UC
      11. Grace UC, Thornbury
      12. Harcourt UC, Guelph
      13. Huron Shores UC, Grand Bend
      14. Kemble-Sarawak UC
      15. Kilsyth Keady North Derby Pastoral Charge
      16. Kincardine UC
      17. Knox UC, Auburn
      18. Knox UC, Belgrave
      19. Listowel: Calvary-Zion Pastoral Charge (Calvary UC, Zion UC)
      20. Massie UC
      21. Morriston, Mt. Carmel UC
      22. Palmerston UC
      23. Parkminster UC, Waterloo
      24. Sauble Beach UC
      25. St. Andrew’s UC, Bayfield
      26. St. Andrew’s UC, Hepworth
      27. St. John’s UC, Chesley
      28. St. Luke’s UC, Cambridge
      29. St. Paul’s UC, Metz
      30. St. Paul’s UC, Walkerton
      31. Trinity UC, Elmira
      32. Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont
      33. Wasaga Beach UC
      34. West Montrose UC
      35. Wroxeter UC
      36. Zion UC, Rostock
      37. Zion-Keppel UC
   2. Annual Report reviews – See SharePoint Library – What is being done with these? Title is basically the identifier for the program to separate one from another, John says. Rosemary goes through and comments on each area. Status button to be added so that the Commission can address issues that may be raised. Status choices: Needs Attention, No Action Required, Complete. John Neff will add status button for all three regional councils.
      1. Knox UC, Durham
      2. Tottenham/Rich Hill Pastoral Charge
   3. Thames Road-Elimville PC – Self Assessment
   4. Port Elgin UC – Constitution
   5. St. Luke’s UC, Cambridge & Glen Morris UC – Collaborative agreement
   6. St. Paul’s UC, Metz – Financial report
   7. St. Andrew’s UC, Bayfield – Constitution
   8. Rockwood-Stone PC, Rockwood UC, Stone UC – Governance structure
   9. Grace UC, Thornbury – Self Assessment
   10. St. John’s UC, Alliston – Plan of Organization

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

## New Business:

1. Grace UC, Thornbury – CoF Profile

**MOTION** Arthur Hills/Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the recommendation that Thornbury: Grace Pastoral Charge community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Harcourt Memorial UC, Guelph– CoF Profile

**MOTION** Matthew Lindsay/Marg Krauter

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the recommendation that Harcourt Memorial UC, Guelph community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 40 hours per week.**MOTION CARRIED**

1. Palmerston UC and Moorefield UC Amalgamation agreement

**MOTION** Arthur Hills /Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the amalgamation agreement between Palmerston UC and Moorefield UC to become James Street UC, Palmerston effective September 25, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Knox UC, Paisley

**MOTION** Marg Krauter/Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the request that Knox UC, Paisley community of faith increase its hours for a call/appoint from 13 to 14 hrs per week to allow qualification of pension and benefits. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Trinity UC, Ashfield (Dungannon Union PC) - CoF Profile

**MOTION** Marg Krauter/Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the recommendation that Trinity UC, Ashfield (Dungannon Union PC) community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 16 hours per week. In a Collaborative Agreement with Lucknow UC making the position fulltime. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Lucknow UC – CoF Profile

**MOTION** Arthur Hills/Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the recommendation that Lucknow UC community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 24 hours per week. In a Collaborative Agreement with Trinity UC, Ashfield (Dungannon Union PC) making the position fulltime. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Arkell UC – CoF Profile

**MOTION** Matthew Lindsay/Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the recommendation that Arkell UC community of faith is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category D for 20 hours per week. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. PCS 6-month Report for St. Andrew’s UC, Bayfield: John Neff, as pastoral charge supervisor, spoke to this report.

**Recommendations for the Pastoral Charge:**

1. Behavioural Covenant - in process. Should be completed at their next council meeting on May 10, 2022
2. Governance structure/constitution: Completed
3. Training for M&P – regular training available (watch in newsletter and facebook): Completed
4. UFS module – Respectful Congregations – Harry Disher appointed to facilitate UFS Module. He will be arranging a meeting soon.

**Recommendations for the Regional Council:**

1. Search Team Support: Completed. Training is offered by Diane Blanchard. They have been invited to attend. They may also contact Diane Blanchard as needed.
2. Liaison to check in with Search Team every 3-4 months: Completed. Liaison has been in contact. They are also free to contact the Liaison as needed.
3. Ask the pastoral charge supervisor to provide a report in 6 months: Completed through this report.
4. Ask the Minister for Congregational Support and Mission to work with the congregation on implementing the recommendations - Generally complete. He will continue to monitor.
5. Request the Covenant Commission to provide financial support for the United Fresh Start Module. Completed

Minister for Congregational Support and Mission was also asked to attend the next Congregational meeting in person. This was done on April 14, 2022. The meeting went well.

1. Connecting with the Nominating Committee for possible recruiting for Commission. If commission members know of anyone whom they could tap on the shoulder to serve, please let the nominating committee know.
2. Rural Connect / Angel Mobile HUB Satellite Invoice

**MOTION** Marg Krauter/Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves payment of the invoice from Amik Tech for $1,001.18. Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Covenant Commission will reimburse the WOWRC Covenant Commission $667.45 for their community of faiths connection to the Southampton HUB. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. John’s Sabbatical – May 9-Aug 8
   1. Filling in for John as staff on a half time basis – Ann Harbridge
   2. Filling in for Ann as Chair of CC – Arthur Hills

c. Marg Krauter will represent Covenant Commission on Executive

John briefly outlined his sabbatical plan

1. St. John’s UC, Alliston – Letter of Intent

**MOTION** Matthew Lindsay/Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the Relationship between United Property Resource Corporation and St. John’s UC, Alliston as described in the letter of intent for development of property. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Position description of PCS Recruiter. Process for hiring. The Covenant Commission agreed to entrust the recruitment and hiring of the person or persons to serve as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to either John Neff or Ann Harbridge, depending on the timeframe.

1. Nottawa UC - Disbandment

**MOTION** Marg Krauter/Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the disbandment of Nottawa United Church effective April 21, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Gorrie UC – Disbandment to Executive

**MOTION** Arthur Hills/Matthew Lindsay

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the request of Gorrie U.C. to be disbanded effective July 31, 2022; that its last worship service be June 26, 2022 at the Gorrie church; and that Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council handle all matters associated with its disbanding in accord with charity law and the property policy of the regional council and, in exchange, forfeits the opportunity to direct a portion of the proceeds. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Wroxeter UC – Intent to disband

**MOTION**  Margaret Bakker/Marg Krauter

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the request of Wroxeter U.C. to begin the process of disbanding. Disbanding date to be set later. **MOTION CARRIED**

1. Creating Information videos

John: done one as a test, Lynne Allin, Greg, Judith Fayter. Walking through disbandment, something for trustees, cof profile, different format than just sending different forms. John think it would be worthwhile to see how it goes, try a couple and see reaction/feedback.

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen/Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the production of information videos by Greg Simpson, for a cost of $350 per video. The cost shall be shared by the Covenant Commissions of Horseshoe Falls, Antler River Watershed and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils. **MOTION CARRIED**

Sample work:

*What Ministers Need to Know about Streaming*https://youtu.be/qm\_271kL07w*Making Your Livestreams Better*https://youtu.be/Wj6D0syuKIU

1. Rob Roy Zion United Church

**MOTION** Marg Krauter/Bruce Gregersen

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the request of Rob Roy United Church to change the pastoral charge name from Nottawa-Rob Roy Pastoral Charge to Rob Roy Pastoral Charge and the community of faith name from Rob Roy Zion United Church to Rob Roy United Church effective April 21, 2022.

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. Meeting attendance at meetings of Elora, Bethany, Alma UCs for amalgamation approval June 12, 2022. June 12 is day of vote. Meeting on May 4 by zoom of the amalgamation team putting information together for June 12. Marg Krauter will attend at all three congregations on June 12. Ann Harbridge and Marg Krauter will attend the zoom meeting on May 4.
   1. Elora
   2. Bethany
   3. Alma

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, May 12 by Zoom Call, 7 PM

Worship by: Bruce Gregersen

Land Acknowledgement: Matthew Lindsay

(Will need 4 people for quorum)

## Adjournment