**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

 ***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

Minutes October 13, 2022, 7:00 pm

Roster: (9) 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, Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay, Bruce Gregersen, Marg Krauter

## Regrets: 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: Ann Harbridge

Opening Worship:Ann Harbridge Reading from the Song of Faith, season of creation.

## Opening Agreements

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree t**o approve the minutes of September 21, 2022 as amended with the addition to the motion for Emmanual Waterloo’s lease agreement.

- motion re lease agreement between Emmanual, Waterloo and the Waterloo Co-operative Preschool needs to name the parties of the lease.

## Business Arising

1. Confirmation of email votes (September 27, 2022)

Bethany

MOTION Arthur Hills / Bruce Gregersen: That the Covenant Commission approve the sale of Bethany United Church, certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Pt Lt 9 Con 3 East of Grand River Pilkington Pts 1 & 2, 61R7134; T/W MS 136333; Centre Wellington, and the municipal address of which is 6092 Fourth Line Ariss ON N0B 1B0; pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Bethany United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller, and Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Ontario (Rasham Shemar Harmesh Sandhi) as Purchaser, dated 21 September, 2022, the terms of which are as follows:

• Purchaser: Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Ontario (Rasham Shemar Harmesh Sandhi)

• Sale price: $825,000

• Deposit: $100,000

* All items included except two interior flags, Electric Piano (main floor) clock on rear wall on Main floor, wall plaques and pictures, Planter box 6, sound system main floor, 2 Hepa Filters and Tenants belongings, time capsule in Southeast corner of church, propane rental tank

• Closing date: November 30, 2022

• Realtor: Edge Realty Solutions Brokerage

Funds to be held in trust until a plan is provided to the covenant commission following completion of the amalgamation with Elora & Alma. CARRIED

Gorrie United Church

MOTION Arthur Hills / Bruce Gregersen: That the Covenant Commission agrees to the request of the Trustees of Gorrie United Church to the listing for sale of the Gorrie United Church located at 2048 Albert St., Gorrie, with a listing price of $299,000 with Kelly Smith of eXp Realty. Property to be sold as is. Funds to be distributed as per the regional property policy, with the 30% normally determined by the congregation to go to Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. CARRIED

## Consent Docket

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

Only two outstanding churches requiring pcs: Flesherton Pastoral Charge at the end of the year and Morriston Mt Carmel Zion (leave)

* 1. Thom McDonough to Owen Sound: Central Westside PC effective September 27, 2022
	2. Mark Rutledge to St. Luke’s UC, Cambridge effective September 28, 2022
	3. Ann Harbridge to St. John’s UC, Alliston from March 1, 2023-May 31, 2023, to cover sabbatical
	4. Tom Dunbar to Lakeshore UC, Goderich effective September 28, 2022
	5. Tom Dunbar to Lucknow UC, effective September 28, 2022
	6. Judy Zarubick to Chesley UC, effective September 28, 2022
	7. Judy Zarubick to Dobbinton UC, effective September 28, 2022
	8. Jane Sullivan to St. John’s UC, Elmvale
	9. Harry Disher to Knox UC, Ayr from Sept 30th through to Oct 17th to cover holidays.
	10. Felicia Urbanski to Arkell UC effective September 28, 2022
	11. Doug Hayward to Cedar Hil UC, Cambridge effective September 28, 2022.
	12. Sue Campbell to Mount Forest UC effective October 26, 2022.
	13. Catherine Smith and Henry McLeod to Trinity Centennial UC, Rosemont effective January 1, 2023
1. Documents received for information
	1. St. John’s UC, Alliston – Financial Viability Worksheet, Self-Assessment, Living Faith Story
2. Covenanting services
	1. Tara Centenary UC, Dobbinton UC, Chesley UC – Covenanting with Region. Liz Dillman to attend on behalf of Covenant Commission

Discussion of wording of covenanting service between regional council and communities of faith.

Does it feel contractual and legal, not relational? Is there a way to tweak the wording to make it more individual; revamp the language to make it more positive and relational.

Find there is some confusion within communities of faith; could it be called something other than covenant because of confusion with the covenanting with ministry personnel. Suggestion: call it a covenant of connection. It was agreed to return to this discussion at the next covenant commission meeting.

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

## New Business

1. Elora UC, Bethany UC, Alma UC Amalgamation Agreement

**MOTION** Norm Eygenraam / Arthur Hills: That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the amalgamation agreement between Elora Bethany Pastoral Charge (Elora UC & Bethany UC) and Alma Pastoral Charge (Alma UC) creating Centre Wellington: Hope Springs Pastoral Charge; Hope Springs United Church, effective November 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

1. HUB/Satellite at Southampton UC (Jan-Mar = $335.05)

The initial costs for some trials with new churches and some shifting prices.

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Judy Chalmers : That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve payment of the additional expenses for Jan to March, 2022 in the amount of 335.05 from Angel Mobile to Southhampton UC as part of its commitment to the HUB/Satellite ministry. **CARRIED**

1. St. John’s UC, Alliston – request for short term supply to cover sabbatical.

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Margaret Bakker : That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agree that St. John’s UC, Alliston is viable for a short-term appointment up to category F for 24 hrs per week to cover a sabbatical from March 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023. **CARRIED**

1. Knox UC, Durham & Crawford UC Collaborative Covenant – (retroactive. It was never approved)

**MOTION** Margaret Bakker / Norm Eygenraam : That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the Collaborative Agreement between Knox UC, Durham & Crawford UC, effective November 11, 2021. **CARRIED**

1. Pastoral Charge Supervisor Policy

John Neff will do further work on this policy and bring to the next covenant commission meeting for review.

**Lease and Rental Agreement Policy**

Raised by Bruce Gregerson, “how do we separate out “mainstream” bigotry from other more rabid bigotry of some evangelical churches?”.

Bruce suggested a statement like the following could perhaps be added into all leases:

The leasee acknowledges the commitment of The United Church of Canada to be inclusive and accepting of all people irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation and agrees not to include the name of (this congregation) or The United Church of Canada in any advertising or public statement that contradicts this commitment.

John Neff will discuss with Lynne Allin (Minister Congregational Support & Mission for ARWRC and HFRC), as currently it is a tri regional policy. Bruce also suggested getting a legal opinion.

It was noted with sadness that Marion Boyd, a member of the WOWRC Human Resources Commission and a longtime, active member of Bruce Presbytery, Hamilton Conference, had passed away.

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, November 10, 2022 by Zoom Call – 7 pm

Worship by: Norm Eygenraam

Land Acknowledgement: Arthur Hills

## Adjournment