**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

October 19, 2022

Via Zoom

**Roster:** Mark Laird (President), Brent Caslick (Treasurer), Andrea Allan, Jessica Cottrell, Gail Fricker, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Jennifer Irving, Joyce Johnston, Ann Harbridge, Cathy Larmond, Heather Leffler, Terry Smith

**Staff Support:** Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant & Acting Secretary

**Present:** Mark Laird, Brent Caslick, Andrea Allan, Jennifer Irving, Ann Harbridge, Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Cathy Larmond, Heather Leffler, Terry Smith

**Regrets:** Jessica Cottrell, Gail Fricker

# Welcome and Constitution of Meeting (President Mark): I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority vested in me by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of this meeting will be the Zoom call.

**Land Acknowledgement, Worship:** President Mark invited the group to share their concept of home, asking where do you call home?

## 

## **Consent Docket**

**MOTION**: Heather Leffler / Ann Harbridge

That the Consent Docket be approved

Any of the following matters that require discussion can be lifted from the consent docket and voted upon separately:

1. **Enabling Actions**
2. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2022, be approved as distributed.
4. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

**B**. **Correspondence Received**

1. Learning Funds Grant Application submitted by Andrea Allan

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive approves a Learning Funds Grant to Andrea Allan in the amount of $500.00 to assist with costs associated her second year of the D.Min. program at St Stephen's College. (Note: Grants are limited to one-third (1/3) of the associated costs of a learning event, to a limit of five hundred dollars ($500), including any associated travel costs.)

1. St. Marys United Church: PTCC Net Revenue Grant Application

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive approves the application from St. Marys United Church for a PTCC 5% Capital Grant in the amount of $5,000.00.

Andrea Allan abstained.

**CARRIED**

**Business Arising**

1. Commission Reports

Covenant Commission: Chair Ann Harbridge noted that 10 or 11 email votes were passed in the summer. The commission has been very busy with amalgamations, disbandments. Ann noted that the Bethany/Alma/Elora amalgamation, effective November 1, was one of the smoothest, most well run that she has been involved with. After a year, the congregation will evaluate the space and decide if that space will still be used; leaving everything open for conversation and discussion.

The commission is also working on policy around leases/rentals. Hopefully will finalize by next meeting. Ann added that it might be helpful for the executive and covenant commission to brainstorm together on solutions and different ways of doing things. People need places to places to hear different kinds of stories of how to be church it was agreed.

Andrea Allan left the meeting.

Human Resources: Cathy Larmond shared the sad news of the passing of Marion Boyd, the LLWL resource team chair. David Shearman will now head up the LLWL team. Cathy noted the commission is seeing a trend with many churches ending up with long term supervisors and liasons and not interested in getting a minister; conversation is needed if the regional council is looking for a solution to this issue.

1. Mission & Discipleship: Co-chair Jenn Hind-Urquhart is just back from sabbatical. The commission’s primary objective currently is allocating Mission Support Grant funds and that will be the focus of their next meeting. The co-chairs look forward to continuing to develop the commission and maybe take a deeper look at priorities of the commission. Cathy Hird is a recent and welcome addition to the commission.

**New Business**

1. President Elect

President Mark has reached out to three people and they are giving the idea of putting their name forward serious consideration.

Discussion regarding the issue of recruitment ensued. It was agreed that there seems to have been more challenges in recruitment the last couple of years and that perhaps it is a little harder to connect when not meeting in person. Possibility of a nominations committee was put forward. It was suggested that the executive should do some discernment around nominations and have some fulsome discussions, before setting up a committee. Need some time to do this in an intentional way. Heather Leffler, Jennifer Irving and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa will have further conversation around this issue and bring back some possibilities to the executive. It was noted that a recruitment video is being prepared to be shown at the upcoming regional council meeting.

An expression of interest recently received from Thom McDonough was shared.

The WOWRC Executive **agreed** by consensus that Thom McDonough be appointed to the Mission and Discipleship Commission. Jenn Hind-Urquhart will contact Thom.

Ann Harbridge left the meeting.

**Updates**

1. Fall 2022 Regional Council Meeting

The next planning team meeting is November 3rd. Still has not been confirmed if there will be an ordination; although the candidate has their ordination interview coming up.

**Upcoming Meetings**

WOWRC fall meeting: November 18-19 (online)

Tri-Executive meeting: November 25-26 (online)

No executive meetings in November and December, 2022.

Next WOWRC Executive: January 18, 2023, 9:15 a.m. (online)

Adjournment