**Covenant Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

November 10, 2022, 7 PM, Zoom Call

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

**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, Marg Krauter Matthew Lindsay,

**Regrets:** Bruce Gregersen

**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:** Norm Eygenraam

**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 October 13, 2022 as circulated.

**Business Arising**

1. Confirmation of email votes
   1. Gorrie UC sale of building

11/04/22 Moved by Marg Krauter, seconded by Arthur Hills that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the sale of certain Real Property at 2048 Albert St. Gorrie, the legal description of which is LT 198 PL 276 Howick; PT LT 234 PL 276 Howick as in BOA4159 except R303873 Township of Howick, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Gorrie United Church, of the Wroxeter/Gorrie Pastoral Charge, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, (as Seller), and Sean Sutton (as Purchaser), dated the 4th day of November, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Purchaser: Sean Sutton

Sale Price: $350,000

Deposit: $5,000

Sold in as in Condition, Named Chattels included: Stove & Refrigerator

Fixtures Excluded: none

Propane Tank is a rental

Closing date: December 8, 2022

Margaret Bakker and Ann Harbridge declared a conflict of interest, as Trustees appointed to deal with the closing of Gorrie United Church. CARRIED **Note: Offer failed.**

**New Offer:**

11/08/22 Moved by Judy Chalmers, seconded by Norm Eygenraam that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the sale of certain Real Property at 2048 Albert St. Gorrie, the legal description of which is LT 198 PL 276 Howick; PT LT 234 PL 276 Howick as in BOA4159 except R303873 Township of Howick, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Gorrie United Church, of the Wroxeter/Gorrie Pastoral Charge, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, (as Seller), and Peter Bas (as Purchaser), dated the 7th day of November, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Purchaser: Peter Bas

Sale Price: $315,000

Deposit: $50,000

Sold in as in Condition, all contents of the building included

Fixtures Excluded: none

Propane Tank is a rental

Closing date: January 10, 2023

Conditional on a written agreement to be made between the buyer and the neighbour on use of the shared well, at the buyer’s cost.

Margaret Bakker and Ann Harbridge declared a conflict of interest, as Trustees appointed to deal with the closing of Gorrie United Church. CARRIED

* 1. Palmerston: James St. UC - Moorefield UC building sale

11/09/22 Moved by Marg Krauter and seconded by Margaret Bakker That the covenant commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council accede to the request of the trustees of James St. United Church, Palmerston to the TENDER FOR SALE of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Lots 138, 139, and 140 SURVEY MOORE’S MARYBOROUGH; MAPLETON, and the municipal address of which Is 14 MOORE STREET, MOOREFIELD (formerly known as Moorefield United Church).

Money received through the sale of the property, less related expenses, will be held in trust as restricted funds and invested. Investment income will be used to

support the ongoing ministries of James Street United Church. The use of any of the principle of these investments would require approval from Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

Deadline to receive tenders is Nov. 30, 2022 at 4pm. CARRIED

Norm Eygenraam expressed that he was uncomfortable with the speed with which the tender process proceeded and the approval given. Ann Harbridge noted that although the property is not being listed with a realtor, any tender submitted will still require final approval from the Covenant Commission.

**Consent Docket**

1. Correspondence: N/A
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Thérèse Samuel to Highland UC, Eugenia effective January 1, 2023
3. Documents received for information: N/A
4. Covenanting Services
   1. Mount Carmel-Zion UC, Morriston. March 26, 2023 during Sunday worship. Need a representative to attend. To be determined at the January or February 2023 covenant commission meeting (under business arising).

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

**New Business:**

1. Mike Daly Quote for Early Warning Indicators Project

**MOTION**: Marg Krauter / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agree to engage the process with Mike Daly as per his quote along with Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils, if possible. **CARRIED**

John Neff spoke to the project which will compile church closure data from between 2009 and 2018; indicating it is an opportunity to be more informed.

1. Name change of Commission to Congregational Support Commission and title change for John Neff from Minister, Congregational Support and Mission to Minister, Congregational Support. Presented for information and discussion. Commission members supported this suggestion and the Covenant Commission will make a recommendation to those undertaking the Governance Review that these changes be made.
2. Southampton UC – additional charges for HUB-Satellite program

**MOTION**: Norm Eygenraam / Margaret Bakker

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the payment to Southampton UC for their HUB ministry overage charges from Angel Mobile (Amik Technologies) in the amount of $468.67. **CARRIED**

John Neff noted that second and third quarter invoices were received, so this should be the last bill.

1. Teeswater UC – Asset disbursements

Motion not moved.

MOTION / that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the disbursement of Teeswater United Church funds to Wingham and Walkerton Hospitals Teeswater Ag Society, Teeswater Horticultural Society and the Teeswater Kinsmen.

It was noted that disbursements of the sale of property are supposed to be primarily to United Church ministries. After brief discussion regarding the disbursements put forward, it was agreed that John Neff would contact Teeswater, review the property policy and note the following:

The Covenant Commission declined to approve the disbursements as submitted and ask that the disbursement list be revised to include UCC ministries or UCC supported ministries. The commission may consider local ministries that have been previously supported by Teeswater, but evidence of such support will need to be provided.

1. PCS Handbook changes

that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the changes to the Pastoral Charge Supervisor Handbook.

**Agree** by consensus to the revised PCS handbook, particularly the newly added qualifications and appointment section.

1. PCS Payment proposal

Motion not moved

MOTION that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the revised Pastoral Charge Payment

The proposal was reviewed, with slight corrections to the document. Discussion about how to address possible financial challenges that might be raised by communities of faith and what would be the criteria in determining an exception to the community of faith paying the $30/hr (not including travel time). John Neff will bring forward to Lynne Allin, Minister Congregational Support and Mission, so that she can bring to the other two regional councils for review.

1. Affirm report from Tri-Regions Fall 2022 Affirm Presentations (pg. 8)

The Covenant Commission agreed that their top priority is “continuing to remove barriers”.

1. Central Westside, Owen Sound – CoF Profile

Motion not moved

MOTION that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receive the CoF Profile including, including the Living Faith Story, Demographic Worksheet, Financial Viability worksheet, and Real Property Worksheet and ~~approve~~ the recommendation that Central Westside United Church is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 20 hours per week.

John Neff will followup with Central Westside United Church and ask them to outline how they plan on

affording what they have requested; making clear manse funds are not to be used.

1. Glen Morris UC renovation approval

Motion not moved

MOTION / that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the request of Glen Morris UC for the construction of an accessible front door and an accessible washroom at an estimated cost of $132,000 for the Real Property, the legal description of which is The Manse, 451 East River Road, Glen Morris, Ontario, N0B 1W0, and the municipal address of which is Brant County, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of the Glen Morris United Church, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, as a grant recipient, and subject to Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

The congregation of the Glen Morris United Church will fund $32,000 provided the Glen Morris Pastoral Charge is successful in receiving a grant from Economic Development Credit in the amount of $100,000.

Before considering approval of the above motion, the Covenant Commission is requesting the plans and tenders, financial viability and grant application.

1. CoF Profile – Trinity Centennial UC Rosemont (pending Board approval Nov. 16)

**MOTION:** Marg K / Judy Chalmers

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receive from Trinity Centennial United Church the CoF profiles, including the Living Faith Story, Demographic Worksheet, Financial Viability worksheet, and approve the recommendation that Trinity Centennial is viable to call or appoint a minister at 30 hrs / week up to category F. Ann Harbridge declared a conflict of interest. **CARRIED**

Arthur Hills left the meeting.

1. Wasaga Beach UC – CoF Profile

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Norm Eygenraam

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receive for information the CoF profile from Wasaga Beach United Church, including the Living Faith Story, Demographic Worksheet, Financial Viability worksheet, and Real Property Worksheet and approve the recommendation that they are viable to call a minister up to cat D for 30 hrs/wk. **CARRIED**

12. Covenanting services with region

John Neff raised for discussion that the commission move forward with the understanding that as of right now all churches are automatically covenanted with the regional council and concentrate on covenanting with new churches (church plants) and amalgamations.

After brief discussion, including noting that there continues to be confusion regarding covenanting with the regional council and covenanting with ministry personnel, it was **agreed** by consensus that current communities of faith are assumed to be covenanted with the regional council and that specific services will be held for new churches.

It was also agreed that should at any time a congregation want to renew their covenant with the regional council, that door would be held open.

John Neff will share this decision with Lynne Allin, so it can be discussed with the other two regional councils.

**Next Meeting:** Regular meetingThursday, Jan 12, 7 pm, via zoom.

**Adjournment**