**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**Fall 2022 Virtual Meeting**

**“Where Two or Three Are Gathered”**

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council was called to meet on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19, 2022 via Zoom with approximately 140 participants online in attendance each day.

***Meeting Session: Friday, November 18, 2022***

***6:30 – 8:30 PM***

**Welcome & Constitute Meeting**

President Mark Laird 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 Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it.

President Mark welcomed all to the gathering and invited those attending a Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Meeting for the first time to introduce themselves. The following persons spoke to the meeting: John Adeyemi (intern doing SME, Arkell United), Dyanne Marlok (Tottenham Rich Hill Pastoral Charge, New Tecumseth), Lesley Fox (retiring military chaplain at Camp Borden, starting at Collingwood in April 2023), Roni Beharry (Trinity Pastoral Charge, Guelph), Rebecca Murray (Knox, Ayr).

**Land Acknowledgement**

An Acknowledgement of the Territory was led by President Mark.

**Opening & Procedural Motion** (Proposal #1)

Terry Smith, Chair Agenda & Business Committee, provided an overview of Proposal #1 – Opening & Procedural Motion, and noted there would be a correction in the previous minutes; Rod Coates is not the Treasurer, but Secretary.

**MOTION:** Terry Smith / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the following as the consent docket:

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 meeting of 2022-05-6-7 as corrected;
3. Receive the following minutes of the following meetings of the
4. Executive

2022-04-25

2022-04-27

2022-06-22

2022-09-21

1. Covenant Commission

2022-04-21

2022-06-09

2022-09-21

1. Human Resources Commission

2022-05-15

2022-04-19

1. Mission and Discipleship Commission

2022-03-03

2022-05-12

2022-06-30

2022-09-21

for information.

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

1. Confirm the appointment of David Shearman to the Human Resources Commission;
2. Confirm the appointment of Cathy Hird to the Mission and Discipleship Commission;
3. Confirm the appointment of Thom McDonough to the Mission and Discipleship Commission;
4. Appoint Fred Monteith as Parliamentarian;
5. Appoint Terry Smith as Chair, Agenda and Business Committee;
6. Name Maggie Dieter to serve as Equity Support Team Member;
7. Name President Mark Laird, Chair Agenda and Business Committee Terry Smith, Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, and Executive Assistant Sue Duliban, as the Agenda and Business Committee;
8. Name regional council staff members as scrutineers;
9. Set the bounds of the meeting as the zoom call and the sanctuary of Brussels United Church, Brussels, Ontario;
10. 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);
11. Make all guests corresponding members;
12. Set the deadline for new business to be submitted to the Agenda and Business Committee as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, November 19, 2022;
13. Set the deadline for nominations for President-Elect as 9:00 a.m., Saturday, November 19, 2022;
14. Receive all written reports in the workbook; noting correction in Executive action
15. 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.

**CARRIED**

**Introductions: Leadership Team**

President Mark Laird introduced the regional council meeting leadership team, the tech team, and the worship team assisting in the meeting.

**BRAVE/Affirming Statement/Equity Support Team Member**

Equity Support Team Member Maggie Dieter introduced herself, outlined her role, and raised up BRAVE: Commitments to Community Safety and the tri-region Affirming Statement

**Opening Worship**

Gary Clark and Roni Beharry led worship and asked those gathered to reflect on the question (in breakout rooms), “Knowing that we come with so many differences, what helps us to focus on God? What helps us not to lose heart?” President Mark and Roni Beharry shared some of the reflections posted in the zoom chat: scripture, prayer, sharing personal stories about God. Listening to others and being with them. Hearing another's story. Not lose heart in face of differences. United in God; parts of the body of Christ, remembering we are all different people.

**GC44 Update**

A video prepared by GC44 Commissioners, Brent Caslick and Judy Zarubick was shared. In the video, they shared their reflections as a first-time commissioner and a returning commissioner, their learnings, a comparison of online/in-person GC. PresidentMark thanked those who went and participated in GC44 and made WOWRC voices heard, and thanked Brent and Judy for preparing the video.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa noted that a Remit package will be distributed the beginning of March, 2023, in regards to Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

**Tri-Region Governance Review Update**

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided some background on the Regional Council Governance Review, as well as an update on the review. The timeline of the review has shifted to Spring 2023 to benefit from outside facilitation. Jenny Stephens and Bill Allen will lead the evaluation.

**“We Are WOW”**

A video volunteer recruitment message prepared by the Executive was shared. This helpful resource, providing information about WOWRC and the work of the Executive/Commissions will be made available for use by the regional council.

***Time Together***

President Mark invited those gathered to discuss and share, in breakout rooms, the following questions: How are you gathering together? What have you held onto and of what have you had to let go?

**Reminders**

Terry Smith noted the deadline for new business and President-Elect nominations as 9 AM, Saturday, November 19, 2022.

President Mark closed the evening session with prayer.

***Meeting Session: Saturday, November 19, 2022***

***9:30 AM – 1:30 PM***

**Welcome Back**

President Mark welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**Worship**

Roni Beharry and Gary Clark led worship. Those gathered were invited to reflect, in breakout rooms, “What helps you keep calm in the face of or in anticipation of conflict? What more do you need?” Participants were invited to share their thoughts in a larger forum, verbally and in chat. Some responses that were shared: prayer, breathing, walking in nature to give perspective, staying in the moment. Gary Clark closed with prayer and Roni Beharry shared a Benediction.

**In Memoriam**

A video presentation honoured “friends, colleagues & leaders” who guided & served the church with their living:

Dr. Don Atkinson

Rev. D. Paul Boughton OM

The Honourable Marion Boyd

Rev. Sandra Evan-Jones OM

Rev. Dr. Rosemary Grant OM

**Community of Faith Life Cycle Changes**

A video presentation honoured the following communities of faith:

Disbandments and Closures, with thanks for their legacy and faithful service

* Auburn UC, Knox Pastoral Charge
* Gorrie UC and Wroxeter UC, Gorrie-Wroxeter Pastoral Charge
* Teeswater UC

Name Change

* Marsville- Mimosa Pastoral Charge to Mimosa Pastoral Charge

Amalgamations & Name Changes

* Alma UC & Elora UC & Bethany UC to Hope Springs United Church, Elora
* Palmerston UC & Moorefield UC to James Street United Church, Palmerston

Collaborative Ministry Agreements

* Knox United Church, Ayr and Fairview United Church, Brantford (HF)
* Ebenezer United Church, Campbellville and Trinity United Church, Acton (HF)

President Mark shared a prayer of thanks for all.

**Budget (Proposal #2)**

Treasurer Brent Caslick presented the proposal. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, in response to a question about the term single salary, explained that General Council Executive decided to adopt a single salary schedule for all lay and ministry personnel staff. Brent also noted, in response to a question regarding budget surplus, that yes, the regional council does anticipate a cash surplus. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa added that a deficit has been budgeted for the last couple of years, but the regional council has lived within its means and has yet to show a deficit.

**MOTION:** Brent Caslick / Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council:

1. Receive the internal 2022 operating statement to date for information;

2. Direct the Executive to deal with the 2021 Auditors’ Report;

3. Direct the Executive to include the 2020 and 2021 final Financial Statements in the workbook for the spring 2023 meeting; and

4. Endorse the following principles for the 2023 budget:

1. To maintain existing Executive and Commission meeting budgets even with the increase in the mileage reimbursement rate to promote a reduction in carbon through the practice of electronic meetings;
2. To reflect the changes in salaries and benefits authorized by the General Council Executive;
3. To base costs on the figures from the last three year and not the amount anticipated at formation of the regional council;
4. To fund expenses for matters involving The Manual, Section J; Oversight and Discipline, from the Unrestricted Operating Reserve as these fluctuate in number and cost; and

5. Adopt the proposed 2023 budget as amended authorizing the Executive to adapt as necessary within the above guidelines.

**CARRIED**

**UCC Protect: Erik Mathiesen**

Erik Mathiesen, Executive Officer, Finance, shared information on the new insurance program, UCC Protect. Effective December 1, 2022, The United Church of Canada will launch an insurance program aimed at providing United Church ministries with more affordable and accessible property and liability insurance coverage. Erik answered some general questions about the program, noting there will be a communication for each renewal group, and explaining some of the structure. Further details and FAQs are provided on the UCC website: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/local-administration/group-insurance/ucc-protect#downloads>. More questions can be directed to uccinsurance@united-church.ca

**Introduction of Brenna Baker, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Team Member**

A video was shared introducing Brenna Baker, new Community of Faith Stewardship Support Team Member. As a member of the General Council Philanthropy Unit, deployed in the region, Brenna consults with congregations and individuals around all areas of Stewardship and generosity including: congregational giving programs, Mission & Service, Planned Legacy Giving, and the United Church Foundation.

**Covenant Commission**

John Neff, Congregational Support Minister and staff resource to the Commission, referenced the information Toolkits on the WOWRC website. Highlighting Toolkit #1 Covenant between Region and Communities of Faith, currently being updated. The Commission has made the decision that since we became regional councils, all of the churches that are part of the regional council will automatically be considered in a covenant relationship with the regional council. The Covenant Commission would like to concentrate on is new ministries that might be developed through church plants, or when there are amalgamations and new communities of faith and pastoral charges are created. It is in these times that there would be a covenant with the regional council for the new church. John closed with a couple of poll questions to those gathered, focussed on the information presented.

**Honouring Our Retirees**

Retirees Ellen Baynton-Walker, Deborah Deavu and Hugh MacDonald, shared reflections on their ministry in a

video presentation. President Mark thanked Ellen, Deborah and Hugh for their ministries.

**UCW**

Ann Rueber, (Avondale United, Stratford, president of WOWRC UCW), brought greetings and shared a photo and a video clip of WOWRC UCW members sharing stories from the national UCW’s 60th Anniversary gathering in Sydney, Nova Scotia, “UCW 60th Chronicles”. It was noted that the “Women for Change” Zambian project, supported by the UCW, had raised $103,204 at the time of the Sydney conference.

**President Elect**

President Elect nominee, Jennifer Irving, introduced herself to the Court. Jennifer serves in ministry at Centennial United in Stayner, just south of Wasaga Beach.Jennifer shared that she felt called to express an interest in the position of president-elect (having worked on nominations and currently serving on the Executive as a member at large) because of her passion for creating community and connecting people in all our diversity and wholeness. Jennifer expressed her hope to build community and connection within the regional council.

**MOTION:** Liz Dillman/David Shearman

That Jennifer Irving be elected President Elect.

**CARRIED**

A 30 minutes break was taken.

**Human Resources Commission**

A video report highlighting the Commission’s work was shared.

**Honouring Our Retirees**

Retirees Jenny Stephens, Felicia Urbanski, and Rose Ann Vita shared reflections on their ministry in a video presentation.

President Mark thanked all the retirees for their service and led those gathered in a virtual round of applause.

**Introduction of Alex Jebson**, **OM Candidate**

Rev. David Shearman introduced Candidate for Ordination, Alex Jebson to the Court with a biography of his experience and learning.

**Address to the Court**

Alex Jebson shared a reflection on his ministry as relating to the meeting theme of “Where Two or Three Are Gathered.”

**Mission & Discipleship Commission**

Co-Chair of the Mission & Discipleship Commission, Jenn Hind-Urquhart provided a video update on the ongoing work of the Commission.

**Winter is Coming: The HUB Housing Justice Podcasts**

Adam Cresswell highlighted a new project from The HUB: The HUB Housing Justice Podcasts which discuss how to go from housing crisis to housing justice. Clips from a recent podcast were shared. Adam noted that the HUB is looking for partners in this project, to help inform and advance the cause of housing justice.

**Unfinished/New Business**

President Mark noted that there was no unfinished or new business to address.

**Save the Dates**

The dates for the Spring 2023 WOWRC meeting were highlighted. The meeting will be a hybrid and will be held Friday, May 26 – Saturday, May 27, 2023 at the UNIFOR Family Education Centre, Port Elgin

**Closing Motion (Proposal #3)**

**MOTION:** Terry Smith / Doug Hayward

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

1. Entrust any unfinished business from its November 18-19, 2022 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 spring of 2023; 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 November 18-19, 2022 meeting of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council at the close of the Celebration of Ministry Service on Saturday, November 19, 2022.

**CARRIED**

**Courtesies**

President Mark then thanked all those who took leadership and planning roles in the meeting. He also thanked Jennifer Irving and all the WOWRC retirees, not just for their messages but for the service they have provided and what they will do going forward.

**Thanking President**

Heather Leffler provided several comments in support of Mark Laird for his calm leadership & presence; making the meeting a space where people can make a connection, even though online. Brent Caslick echoed Heather’s remarks and also offered special thanks to Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa and the regional council staff who work long hours on three regional council meetings.

The meeting closed with a prayer from President Elect Jennifer Irving.

Adjournment: 1:30 PM