**Congregational Support Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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

January 12, 2023, 7:00 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

Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

## Present: Ann Harbridge, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Bruce Gregersen

## Regrets: Marg Krauter

Welcome and Constitute Meeting:Arthur Hills, (Acting Chair) welcomed all and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for all business that comes before it.

Acknowledging the Land: Arthur Hills

Ann Harbridge resumed the Chair.

Opening Worship:Given that this is the season following Epiphany,Ann Harbridge invited the commission to share if they have experienced an epiphany since last meeting. Ann closed with prayer.

## Opening Agreements:

Approval of Agenda: The Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree** on the agenda.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Congregational Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree t**o approve the minutes of November 10, 2022 as amended (Motion for the sale of Gorrie UC, January 10, 2023 not 2022).

## Business Arising:

1. Email votes (confirmation of)
2. Nov. 24, 2022 Moved by Arthur Hills/Marg Krauter that the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council accede to the request of Grace United Church, Thornbury to allow the congregation to use up to $20,000 from restricted funds from the sale of the Manse in order to make repairs to their chimney and brickwork, and other capital improvements. Carried
3. Dec. 15, 2022 Moved by Judy Chalmers/Bruce Gregersen that the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the disbursement of the residual funds from Mount Hope United Church, in the amount of $2,296.33 to the South Hampton United Church, completing the closure of the Mount Hope United church.
4. Dec. 19, 2022 Moved by Arthur Hills, seconded by Norm Eygenraam that the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the request of the trustees of the Teeswater United Church for the following dispersal of the 30% of the assets directed by the trustees from the closing of the Teeswater United Church:

25% for dining hall project at Silver Lake Church Camp

10% Salem United Church

5% for the Teeswater Vacation Bible School

The remaining 60% be directed to the Western Ontario Waterways, Congregational Support Commission budget to be used for congregational support. Carried

1. Dec. 8, 2022 Moved by Judy Chalmers, seconded by Arthur Hills, that the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the sale of certain Real Property at 14 Moore, Moorefield, the legal description of which is Lots 138 - 1,CI. Moore's Survey, Maryborough (Mapleton) PIN 71472-0154(LT), pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Moorefield, James St. United Church, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, as trustees, and Trustees of Hope in Christ Church, dated the 6th day of December, 2022, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Purchaser: Hope in Christ Church

Selling price: $380,000

Deposit: $10,000

All Fixtures and chattels included in as in condition

Closing date: January 20, 2023 Carried

2. Lease Agreements:

The statement “Include a statement such as: “The lessee 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.”” is now included in the template and the Lease Handbook.

**Consent Docket:**

1. Correspondence: none received
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Nancy Knowles to Huron Shores beginning January 1, 2023.
   2. Brenda Woodall to Emmanuel UC, Waterloo from Jan 3-17, 2023 while minister is on study leave.
   3. Norm Eygenraam to Clifford pastoral charge beginning January 1, 2023.
   4. Judy Zarubick to Ripley Bervie Kinloss, beginning January 1, 2023.

PCSs Needed

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pastoral Charge** | **Topic** | **PCS Name** | **PCS Start** | **PCS End** |
| Guelph: Dublin Street Pastoral Charge | Sabbatical | Needed | 02-06-2023 | 05-01-2023 |
| Owen Sound: First Pastoral Charge | Sabbatical | Needed | 06-04-2023 | 10-29-2023 |
| Wasaga Beach | Replace PCS | Needed | 01-12-2023 |  |

1. Documents received for information
2. Kindred Works – The commission is requested to attend a process and information meeting January 19, 2023 at 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/83050856061?pwd=bkgyZ2ZLSVBlMVRzdVh5TVZKTTdEUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5085 6061

Password: 170254

1. Tri-Regional Review

Reviewers Jenny Stephens and Bill Allen would like to attend the March 9 meeting of the CSC. Focus is listening and then maybe 15-30 minutes at end for any questions they might have coming from surveys that will be coming out soon.

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

## New Business:

1. Knox UC, Auburn

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Norm Eygenraam

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disband Knox United Church, Auburn effective December 31, 2022. **CARRIED**

1. Rich Hill UC

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Norm Eygenraam

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the listing for sale of Rich Hill UC, the legal description of which is Part of the east half of lot 10, Concession 2 (Tecumseth Township), Town of Tecumseth, County of Simcoe, ON, and the municipal address of which is 1276 Side Road 10, Tottenham, New Tecumseth, ON; pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Rich Hill United Church, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, as Seller and Century 21 agent Ken Pratt, as Realtor, dated the 16th day of January, 2023, and subject to regional council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Realtor: Ken Pratt [Ken.Pratt@century21.ca](mailto:Ken.Pratt@century21.ca)

Commission: 2%

Asking price: $700,000

Listing date: February 2023

All assets from the sale of property to be held as restricted capital until the approval of distribution by the Congregational Support Commission. **CARRIED**

1. Southampton UC - Collaborative agreement

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Judy Chalmers

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the collaborative agreement between Southampton UC (WOW) and Sheffield Rockton PC (HF) and Lynden UC (HF). **CARRIED**

Note: This also requires approval of the HFRC Congregational Support Commission.

It was noted that keeping policies the same across the three regions is beneficial, particularly in instances such as the above.

1. Teeswater UC – Disbandment

**MOTION** Arthur Hills / Norm Eygenraam

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disband Teeswater United Church effective December 31, 2022. **CARRIED**

1. Mount Hope UC – Disbandment

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Bruce Gregersen

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council disband Mount Hope United Church effective December 31, 2022. **CARRIED**

1. Port Elgin UC – CoF Profile

**MOTION** Norm Eygenraam / Arthur Hills

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives the community of faith profile from Port Elgin United Church and approves the recommendation to call/appoint ministry personnel for 40 hours per week at Category F. **CARRIED**

John Neff noted Port Elgin UC is in talks with Southampton UC regarding the possibility of some type of collaborative work.

1. United Church Rural Ministry Network

They are looking for funds to continue their work and become more active. They have been encouraged to apply for a grant for 2023. In the meantime, it was hoped the Congregational Support Commissions of all three regional councils could contribute $350.00.

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Arthur Hills

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve a donation of $350 to United Church Rural Ministry Network and encourage them to apply for the next available grant period of rural funds. **CARRIED**

1. Londesborough UC – CoF Profile

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Norm Eygenraam

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receive the Community of Faith Profile from Londesborough UC and approves the recommendation to call/appoint ministry personnel for 20 hours per week at Category D. **CARRIED**

1. Central Westside UC, Owen Sound

**MOTION** Judy Chalmers / Bruce Gregersen

That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, having received assurances of the financial viability, approves the recommendation that Central Westside United Church is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category F for 20 hours per week. **CARRIED**

The current PCS, Thom McDonough, is ensuring the lease agreement wording recently added to the Lease Handbook is upheld in any pertinent discussions.

1. Exeter UC - Regional Representative be present at Zoom Meeting January 17th at 7pm and a vote for a short-term supply will be taken. The current PCS is the same person as the short-term supply so there is a conflict of interest. Arthur Hills agreed to serve as regional representative.
2. Wasaga Beach UC

**MOTION** Bruce Gregersen / Arthur Hills

That the Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receive the Financial Viability and Real Property worksheets and Living Faith Story, and approves the recommendation that Wasaga Beach UC is viable to call/appoint a minister up to Category D for 30 hours per week. **CARRIED**

John Neff will ask the status of their monthly mortgage payments.

12. Rich Hill UC – Proposal

Bruce Gregersen brought forward for input and consultation, the possibility of Rich Hill entering into an amalgamation agreement with Tottenham; the new church would be called New Tecumseth and the possibility of establishing a trust, Rich Hill Charitable Trust. There is also the possibility that an amalgamation could be made with St. John’s, Alliston. Bruce outlined background discussion held in the fall by the Rich Hill congregation. The congregational vote was split equally between two options: amalgamation and disbandment. Discussion regarding the options presented is ongoing.

Bruce raised questions for the commission: is there a limit to the percentage of the resources that could be put towards a trust; how far down the line does a trust live (the thought is to build into an amalgamation agreement terms that will ensure the funds continuation in the event the amalgamated church disbands) ; and does this make sense, is this something the commission could agree upon. Bruce noted this would be a precedent setting agreement.

The commission agreed that this was something they could agree upon, highlighting the defined process for the trust beyond the initial unit as a positive factor.

John Neff noted that the amalgamated agreement would be brought into the amalgamated church – both would have to be in the discussion. Ann Harbridge added that the conditions would have to be spelled out clearly.

Should Rich Hill and Tottenham (or St. John’s) enter into amalgamation discussions and should an agreement be reached that a charitable trust be established, a draft trust agreement, including parameters and percentage of monies to be shared, will be presented to the Congregational Support Commission for review.

John Neff noted that the minister at Huron Shores resigned, a mediator has been appointed and the commission will see the recommendations when the mediator completes their report.

Next Meeting:Regular meetingThursday, February 9 by Zoom Call, 7 pm

Worship by: Bruce Gregersen

Land Acknowledgement: Norm Eygenraam

## Adjournment