**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

**February 15, 2023, 9:15 am, via zoom**

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

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

Present: Jennifer Irving, Brent Caslick, Andrea Allan, Jessica Cottrell, Joyce Johnston, Ann Harbridge, Cathy Larmond, Heather Leffler, Terry Smith

**Regrets:** Mark Laird, Gail Fricker

**Check-in:** President Elect Jennifer asked the group to share a quality they appreciate in themselves and in others and welcomed Jenny Stephens and Bill Allen, Regional Council Evaluation Team.

# Welcome and Constitution of Meeting (President Elect Jennifer): 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.

## **Consent Docket**

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 meetings of January 18, 2023 and January 25, 2023 be approved as distributed.
4. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Receive 5 Regional Council Staff Position Descriptions for information: Administrative Assistant, Finance; Administrative Assistant, Discipleship and Office Site Management; Administrative Assistant, Website Management; Administrative Assistant, Communication and Records; Executive Assistant.
2. Trinity Rosemont: PTCC Net Revenue Grant Application

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive approves the application from Trinity United Church, Rosemont, for a PTCC 5% Capital Grant in the amount of $10,000.00.

1. Expression of Interest submitted

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive agree to appoint Roz Vincent-Haven to the WOWRC Congregational Support Commission.

C. Confirmation of email vote

October 31, 2022

MOTION: Cathy Larmond / Brent Caslick

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council appoint

to:

Mediate a conflict identified by council and members of ;

Determine the process that best fits the situation;

Mediate the crisis and determine if action beyond the local community of faith is required; if so, to advise the regional council of the same.

CARRIED

D. Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Omnibus motion – February 15, 2023

That the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Executive take the following action(s):

a) Bimini United Church Camp (Camp Bimini)

 ….pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Bimini United Church Camp 2021-2022 Board of Directors

 Bob Doupe

Amy Halls

Harry Hengeveld

Scott Kell

Dannielle McLagan

David MacLennan

Andrew Middleton

Kathy Poirier

Mary Taylor

Golda Wilson

Blake Wood

Kelli Zehr

This is based on the Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting 2021 of December 6, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

….pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Bimini United Church Camp 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Bob Doupe

Amy Halls

Harry Hengeveld

Scott Kell

Dannielle McLagan

Karen McLagan

David MacLennan

Andrew Middleton

Kathy Poirier

Mary Taylor

Golda Wilson

Kelli Zehr

This is based on the draft Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting 2022 of December 5, 2022, the 2022 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

b.) Chalmers Community Services

 …. pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada and further to the December 22, 2022 Executive motion approve the request of Chalmers Community Services Centre to:

1. enter into the revised attached promissory note agreement with 42 Carden Shared Space as approved by the board of directors per Chair, Hillary Schlatt’s email of February 9, 2023
2. enter into the attached extension letter of the Vancity Community Investment Bank non-revolving term loan secured by a mortgage in first position over 42 Carden Street, Guelph, ON for a further two months for $1,573,254.61 at the rate of 5.9% effective February 1, 2023 as approved by the board of directors per Chair, Hillary Schlatt’s email of February 9, 2023.

Ann Harbridge declared a potential perception of bias and abstained.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive **agreed** by consensus to accept the consent docket.

**Business Arising**

1. Commission Reports

a) Congregational Support: Ann Harbridge. It has mostly been business as usual. The commission starting to receive annual reports from congregations. A reminder note will be put in newsletter.

The commission is starting to be concerned about areas in the region who may be left with no representation following a disbandment/sale of building. A broader conversation is perhaps needed; how do we maintain the potential for a UCC ministry presence when in some cases it is not feasible anymore. In what areas do we need to maintain the potential of a UCC ministry presence. John Neff, Minister Congregational Support, is searching out two pieces of information from Edge: a listing of UCC property by value, and a map highlighting places that have been identified as communities that will grow – a good starting point for the Congregational Support Commission as they start thinking and talking about this issue which has been weighing on their minds for some time.

Executive agreed with Ann that a broader conversation is needed. Brent Caslick remarked on the difficulty of convincing congregations to let go of what they really want to hold onto. The difficulty of getting congregations to think creatively about these issues was also discussed. Joyce Johnston noted that because the church has been top-driven decision making, it is difficult to make a change where decisions are made by grassroots people. If maintaining a presence is wanted, it will require a lot of discussion and sharing and working as a group to change the story and envision what it will look like.

It was suggested that Brent Caslick and some members of the Centralia Pastoral Charge be invited to speak at the regional council meeting; sharing their story of a shared, cross regional council ministry, as an example of Bold Discipleship. The pastoral charge is a two-point charge, Centralia United Church and Zion-West U C. They joined a cluster of United Churches in a 20km radius area approx. 10-12 years ago and the cluster was named " The Villages Churches". The current group is made up of Kirkton United, Hensall, Centralia-Zion-West (in WOW); and Villages United and Bryanston (in ARW).

Joyce Johnston left the meeting.

b) Human Resources: Cathy Larmond. The commission’s next meeting is February 21.

c) Discipleship & Justice: no report

2. Update on .5 Minister, Social Justice position (C-A)

Reworking of the position description was requested by UCC Human Resources. That has been completed and it has been resubmitted to HR for categorization and posting.

**New Business**

1. Proposal 1: Sabbatical (the Sabbatical Proposal outline is included in the Proposal 1 document)

**MOTION:** Brent Caslick/Terry Smith

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive endorses the proposal for the Executive Minister to be on sabbatical from September 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023 to explore leadership in a time of transition. Any additional costs will come out of unrestricted reserves.

**CARRIED**

Executive emphasized the need for the Executive Minister to include rest, relaxation, refreshment during the sabbatical.

1. That WOWRC Executive consider support for a regional council clergy lunch gathering in the fall of 2023, to be organized by Kevin Steeper, Pastoral Support Minister.

Positive feedback was received for the luncheon on Feb. 1 at Mount Forest. Total cost was $670.00. There was some discussion about who would be able to attend as the February invitation indicated the lunch was open to “…clergy in paid accountable ministry”. That was not the intent in the November motion passed by Executive approving covering the cost of the February lunch.

The Executive **agreed** by consensus that WOWRC cover the cost of a catered luncheon for all active clergy and retired clergy serving in active roles in WOWRCin the fall of 2023to be organized by Kevin Steeper, Pastoral Support Minister.

Conversation will be held with Kevin Steeper to clarify Executive’s direction. The fall lunch invitation must reflect what has been discussed at Executive. It was noted that care should be taken when the same notice is sent to all three regional councils, in case there are slight variations in content between regional councils.

Heather Leffler assumed the chair while President-Elect Jennifer dealt with technical difficulties.

1. Proposal 2: Deepening Understanding of Inter-Cultural Ministry (DUIM)

**MOTION:** Brent Caslick/ Cathy Larmond

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Executive agrees to cover the cost for any member of the staff enrolled in Deepening Understanding of Inter-Cultural Ministry program at Five Oaks, March, 2023 from unrestricted reserves. This to be in addition to staff’s current continuing education allowance.

Jessica Cottrell declared a potential perception of bias and abstained.

**CARRIED**

President-Elect Jennifer returned to the chair.

1. Proposal 3:

Cheryl-Ann provided background to the proposal. It was discussed and agreed that the Treasurer should be added to the commission noted in b), as Brent Caslick will be included in a conversation about financial related matters, with John Neff and .

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Executive **agree** by consensus to name the following to serve on the Commission for the :

President

President-Elect,

Treasurer,

Executive Representative from Congregational Support Commission,

Executive Representative from Human Resources Commission, and

Executive Minister to:

1. Receive the report of
2. Direct the report as appropriate for follow-up.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Executive **agree** by consensus that a Commission will be appointed to receive and direct reports connected with supportive interventions while the full Executive will continue to deal with those prepared in response to discipline matters; **t**he commission complement to be determined by the Executive as reports are received.

1. Orientation Event? If yes, when—June or September? To be deferred to the next regular Executive meeting. Cheryl-Ann suggested that the next orientation could highlight the UCC Strategic Plan and suggested commission representatives take this suggestion to their commissions for input.
2. Change meeting time? To be discussed briefly at the March 1 meeting, giving time to get input from those whose schedules don’t accommodate a Wednesday morning meeting (Discipleship & Justice co-chairs and Joyce Johnston).
3. Regional Council Evaluation Team: Jenny Stephens, Bill Allen

Cheryl-Ann introduced Jenny and Bill. Bill provided background on where they are at with the review and posed various questions to the Executive for input and feedback.

Arising from the discussion with Jenny and Bill. Suggestion was made that instead of putting in place an equity monitor for each Executive meeting, that the Executive look at language amongst themselves, that they could lift up. So all could own it; not have one person taking on that role. Also suggested, including “Parking Lot items” at the end of each agenda. To be revisited at the next regular Executive meeting.

**Upcoming Executive Meetings**

March 1: 2:30 pm, zoom re:

April 19: zoom time tbd