**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

**Minutes May 17, 2023 9 AM**

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

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

**Regrets:** Andrea Allan, Sue Duliban

# 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.

**Opening Worship**

President Mark noted that the next day, Thursday, was Ascension Day and asked the Executive members to share what lifts them up. Then he gathered these moments and wove them into our relationship with one another, celebrating this in prayer.

## **Consent Docket**

It was agreed by consensus to adopt the following consent docket with the addition of fall meeting dates to the agenda:

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Letter from PTCC approving New Leadership and Development Fund Grant in the amount of $5,880 to Trillium United Church.

**Business Arising**

1. Commission Reports

1. Congregational Support

Ann Harbridge provided an update on the Commission’s work. The Commission has been encouraging the regional council to consider our property as a portfolio. The need for this was highlighted again as the Angus U.C. congregation plans to amalgamate with Grenfell U.C. This will mean that the United Church property in Angus, a growing community, is lost.

Cheryl-Ann shared the plans for a regional council trust to hold property and options to maintain a foothold in the Angus real estate market were raised. Cheryl-Ann will reach out to Kindred Works on this topic, copying Ann, Treasurer Brent Caslick, and Minister, Congregational Support John Neff on the email.

1. Human Resources

Cathy Larmond noted that, having been formed from several different Conferences, there are some matters on which there is not clear agreement or expectation. The Commission considered one of these, support for telephone, at its last meeting concluding that this must be an amount of not less than $50 per month.

Another concern is the variety of formats used for Position Descriptions which makes the Commission’s work more complex.

1. Discipleship & Justice

Thom McDonough reported for Discipleship and Justice. The discussion focused on the recognition of 19 Affirming ministries throughout the regional council at the meeting in Port Elgin. Thom will reach out to Jennifer Irving, worship planner for the meeting. It was also agreed to add the names of the 19 communities of faith to the workbook.

Cheryl-Ann noted that the amount for the regional council M&S grant for 2024 will not be known until later this year (by the end of September) and that may delay determination of the amount available for Mission Support Grants.

**Fall Meeting Dates**

The Executive deeply appreciated the perspective of Joyce Johnston when considering the appropriateness of holding any sessions on September 30th. It was concluded that there would be a morning session focused on Truth and Reconciliation and taking the vote on the remit. It will end mid-day to allow people to connect with local Truth and Reconciliation events.

There was widespread support for sharing World Wide Communion together as a regional council.

President-Elect Jennifer recruited a planning team to work with her including Mark Laird, Ann Harbridge, Heather Leffler, and Terry Smith. Joyce Johnston also kindly offered to join as able.

**Affirm Mandate**

The meeting drew to a close with Executive members sharing how they experienced the meeting living into our Affirm priorities.

The meeting concluded at 11:45 a.m.