**Congregational Support Commission**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

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WOWRC Purpose:***Connecting, Supporting, Transforming***

WOWRC Values:***Love Unconditionally, Seek Reconciliation, Risk Courageously***

WOWRC Commitment to be:***Affirming, Anti-Racist***

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June 20, 2023, **9:30 am**, Zoom Call

Roster: (8) Ann Harbridge (DLM-R, Chair), Judy Chalmers (Lay), Norm Eygenraam (Lay), Bruce Gregersen (OM-R), Roz Vincent-Haven (DM-R), Rebekah Duncan (OM), Lesley Fox (OM), Peter Kudelka (Lay), Margaret Krauter

Staff Support: Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support

Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

## Present: Ann Harbridge, Norm Eygenraam, Bruce Gregersen, Roz Vincent-Haven, Rebekah Duncan, Margaret Krauter

## Regrets: Judy Chalmers, Lesley Fox, Peter Kudelka

Welcome (of new members also) and Constitute Meeting:Ann Harbridge welcomed all and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for all business that comes before it.

Lesley Fox joined the meeting briefly to introduce herself.

Acknowledging the Land: Ann Harbridge shared the Land Acknowledgement for her home.

Ann provided a bit of an overview for those new to the commission as to how decisions are made. Consent docket and opening agreements, agree by consensus (consensus being if agree with or can live with the decision). Can remove items for further discussion from consent docket. Can ask questions for clarification. If having difficulty coming to consensus, will have more discussion, may make it a motion, invite those involved to come to a meeting. Items of a legal nature, or spending money not budgeted specifically, make motions.

Opening Worship: Ann asked all to think for a minute about something you are grateful for, share that and who you are, where you live, the congregation you are part of, what drew you to this work.

## 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 Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agree t**o approve the minutes of May 11, 2023 as circulated.

## Business Arising:

1. Email vote (confirmation of)

June 1, 2023

Moved by Lesley Fox seconded by Marg Krauter that the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the listing for sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Lot 146, Plan 134 Alma Town, and the municipal address of which is 4 Rebecca Street West in Alma, Township of Mapleton, the terms of which are as follows:

A) Listing Agent: Rob Woods (Keller Williams Home Group Reality)

B) Commission Rate: 4% (3% if agent for buyer as well) + HST

C) Asking Price: $399,000 (three hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars)

D) Proposed Listing Date: as soon as possible after May 18, 2023

E) Additional Terms/Exceptions: stained glass windows of historic value to be

removed and retained by Hope Springs for future use

Proceeds to be held in trust by the Hope Springs United Church. Carried.

**Consent Docket:**

1. Correspondence: None received
2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
   1. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa to Parkview UC, Stratford for a governing body meeting on May 30, 2023.
   2. Keith Reynolds to Parkview UC, Stratford beginning June 1, 2023
   3. John Neff to Annesley UC, Markdale for a congregational meeting on Sunday June 25, 2023. The PCS cannot make it.

John Neff said that pastoral charge supervisors are needed particularly for Grace Thornbury, and Hope Springs and asked for suggestions of folks who might serve. Bruce Gregersen will be willing to talk in September about taking on another pcs role). John explained the pcs role briefly for context and noted, in response to a question about training, that we are about to go live with a Church X pastoral charge supervisors training program. Also recommended: the Pastoral Charge Supervisors Manual in Congregational Support Toolkit #6 on the WOWRC website.

Noted that payment policy for pastoral charge supervisors will hopefully go to the fall WOWRC meeting, with implementation of the policy January 1, 2024.

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| **CoF** |  | **Topic** | **PCS Name** | **PCS Start** | **PCS End** |
| Brucefield Community United Church |  | Primary | Needed | 02-01-2024 |  |
| Armenian Evangelical United Church, Cambridge |  | Primary | Needed |  |  |
| Hope Springs United Church, Centre Wellington  *Sue Campbell?* |  | Sabbatical | Needed | 06-12-2023 | 08-27-2023 |
| Avondale United Church, Stratford |  | Sabbatical | Needed | 09-01-2024 | 01-07-2025 |
| Grace United Church, Thornbury  *Possibly Rebekah Duncan: Rebekah will speak to John.* |  | Primary | Needed | 06-01-2023 |  |

1. Documents received for information
   1. St. John’s UC, Wiarton – Annual Report
   2. Northside UC – Annual Report
   3. Seaforth UC – Annual Report
   4. Centralia UC – Annual Report
   5. Centralia/Zion West PC – Annual Reports
   6. Hope Springs UC, Centre Wellington – Annual Report
   7. Rockwood UC – Self-Assessment
   8. Stone UC – Self assessment

Ann reviews documents as able, as does Arthur Hills. Reminder that any commission member can review the documents, just note when you have reviewed (in Sharepoint) so there is no duplication of effort.

1. Report from Rep to the Executive (Ann Harbridge)

Ann reported that the WOWRC Executive met on June 15th, primarily to review the Regional Council Evaluation Report. The report will be shared with all the Commissions; commissions are to keep the report confidential until it is widely shared at the fall regional council meeting. Overall a fairly positive report, however, there is still lot of work to be done in terms of communication. Large disconnect with those bemoaning loss of presbyteries, response time by the region.

Recruitment committee is being struck to help with getting volunteers.

Fall meeting is Sept. 28 to Oct. 1. A regional worldwide communion service will be prepared. The tentative plan is to have a service made available to everyone, as well as have a service at a central location that can be livestreamed.

Millbank cemetery has been transferred to municipality.

Deadlines for regional gatherings. Didn’t get to this (raised in a proposal at the May regional council meeting). Discussion deferred to the next executive meeting so that there can be a more fulsome discussion

Executive/Commissions Orientation: September 19, tentatively Trinity Listowel, in person. Tentative agenda: executive meets first thing, then executive/commissions gather for orientation, lunch, commissions meet in the afternoon.

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

## New Business:

1. Glen Morris UC – Renovation to manse. Floor Plan, Property Resolution

John Neff noted they did get a grant for some of the work and the work already in process.

**MOTION:** Margaret Krauter / Roz Vincent-Haven

That the WOWRC Congregational Support Commission approve the renovations to the manse at Glen Morris United Church as presented to the Congregational Support Commission.

**CARRIED**

1. Huron Shores UC, Grand Bend

They were asked to get an external audit as part of the facilitator's recommendations.

John Neff reported that an audit was done; indicating they are doing well and things are in order. Audit was requested because there was some confusion about reporting in the past. Reporting expectations clarified now.

The Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus that the recommendation to Huron Shores United Church from the facilitator has been satisfied with the audit work completed.

1. Hope Springs UC, Centre Wellington – Sale of Alma UC

**MOTION:** Norm Eygenraam / Bruce Gregerson

1. That the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is *Lot 146, Plan 134 Alma Town*, and the municipal address of which is 4 Rebecca Street West in Alma, Township of Mapleton, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Hope Springs United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Seller, and John Edward Craig Dinsmore, as Buyer, dated the 14th Day of June, 2023, and subject to the board of trustees approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Purchaser: John Edward Craig Dinsmore

Sale Price: $387,500.( Three Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars)

Deposit: $15,000. ( Fifteen Thousand Dollars)

Balance Due: $372,500. (Three Hundred and Seven Two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars)

Closing Date: First day of August, 2023

1. To the following disposition of the proceeds arising from the transaction: the net proceeds from the sale of the real property shall be invested in a restricted fund managed by the Trustees of Hope Springs United Church, with the interest earned from that fund to be used at the discretion of Hope Springs United Church, and with Hope Springs United Church being able to submit proposals to the Western Ontario Waterways regional council at any time requesting access to the restricted fund for a specific ministry initiative.
2. To the following disposition of all chattels and assets formerly held by the Alma United Church congregation: those which, by agreement of the Seller and the Buyer, are not included in the sale shall be held by the Trustees of Hope Springs United Church, to be used for the purposes of Hope Springs United Church.

The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Hope Springs United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Centre Wellington: Hope Springs pastoral charge, in trust for Hope Springs United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada.

**CARRIED.**

4. Amalgamation of Grenfel & Angus United Churches

Former minister has custody of historic roll, baptism records etc. This is a concern and Ann Harbridge has advised Grenfel that they need to retrieve the documents/files. Also, conversation with Kindred Works regarding the building is underway. Discussion about waiting for the amalgamation agreement before approving amalgamation.

**MOTION:** Roz Vincent-Haven / Norm Eygenraam

That the WOWRC Congregational Support Commission approve in principle the amalgamation of Angus United Church and Grenfell United Church, subject to clarification as to the disposition of property and the return of historic records.

**CARRIED**

John Neff provided an update of his time off. Lynne Allin and Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa will fill in; Ann Harbridge agreed to be provided as a contact.

Next Meeting: It was agreed that regular meetings of the commission will be held at 1:30 on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Meetings in July and August will be at the call of the chair. The chair will let commission members know a week ahead whether or not a meeting is needed during the summer months.

If no summer meetings, the next meeting will be the in person on September 19th (orientation/commission meeting day).

Worship: Roz Vincent-Haven

Land Acknowledgement: Rebekah Duncan

## Adjournment