**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes**

**November 15, 2023**

**Roster:** Jennifer Irving (President), Brent Caslick (Treasurer), Andrea Allan, Jessica Cottrell, Ann Harbridge, Andrew Hyde, Joyce Johnston, Beth Kerr, Cathy Larmond, Heather Leffler, Terry Smith

**Staff Support:** Mark Laird, Acting Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

Guests: Wonder Chimvinga, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

**Regrets:** Andrea Allan, Joyce Johnston

# Welcome and Constitution of Meeting (President 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.

**Acknowledging the Land and Welcome:** President Jennifer invited those gathered to indicate in the chat the treaty territories from where they join the meeting, and treaty nations to whom we owe reparations.

**Opening Worship:** President Jennifer opened with a blessing “For the Gift of Doubt”

**Huron Shores United Church Commission (HSUC):** Update

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa provided some oral background and read the HSUC Commission minutes from November 13, 2023.

**MOTION:** Heather Leffler / Terry Smith

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

* 1. Receive the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting of the Commission for information;
  2. Note the terms by which Western Ontario Waterways regional council, its leaders and its staff are bound that:
  3. Disband the Commission with thanks for their work on this file; and
  4. 0Agree to destroy all documentation from its meeting on this file save for that which forms the regional council’s official record.

**CARRIED**. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa abstained from the privilege of voting on this matter.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa left the meeting.

President Jennifer invited all those gathered to introduce themselves and say what they love about being on executive.

**Opening Agreements**

WOWRC **agrees** by consensus to adopt the consent docket.

## 1. Consent Docket

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
2. That the minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2023 be approved as distributed.
3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Correspondence Received

1. Request from Massie United Church

2. WOWRC PTCC Balance Net Inc. 12 31 2023 (est. Final) For Information Only

3. Learning Fund Grant Application: received from Andrea Allan. Amount requested: $500.

4.  Ministry Preparation Fund: Stream 2 Candidate Bursary

5. Equity Support Report – For Information (to be reviewed by the planning team at a later date)

At the request of Heather Leffler, it was agreed that Treasurer Brent Caslick will give a refresher/overview of PTCC (The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation) at the January Executive meeting, particularly as there are new members on the Executive.

**Business Arising**

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support: Written report received from Ann Harbridge.

Ann added that Brussels UC has received a second offer on the manse. The first offer was conditional on the buyer selling a residence, which is looking unlikely. This offer has no such condition. The trustees would like to accept this offer if the first buyer does not remove the condition. Another email vote for the commission to address the selling of a church building. Ann again remarked at how depressing it is to be selling buildings; particularly when this sometimes means there will no longer be a United Church presence in an area.

President Jennifer hopes to have time at the tri regional executive gathering for bigger picture discussion on some of these concerns.

1. Human Resources : No report as the commission will be meeting next week.
2. Discipleship & Justice: Andrew Hyde, Chair.

The big piece of work before the commission is assessing and making recommendations on Mission Support grant applications. Andrew has to abstain from this process as the group he serves submitted an application. Since the commission’s last meeting, two commission members have stepped away from the commission. Number of members now a little below a viable commission. Because of this, after discussion with President Jennifer and Acting Executive Minister Mark, the Mission Support grant recommendations made by the commission will be forwarded to the Executive for approval at the December 2 meeting. Cathy Hird, commission member, will lead the commission through making decisions on November 28.

1. Business Trust Discernment Circle: Ann Harbridge

Nothing to share at this time as formation of the circle is in progress. Ann Harbridge explained for new Executive members the background and reasoning behind the establishment of the discernment circle. Ann invited anybody who might be interested in being part of the conversation to contact her. Brent Caslick and John Neff will be part of the circle. There was wide ranging discussion on what the circle should consider, including thinking about ministry in general, how do we offer ministry in all kinds of ways, address support for non-congregational ministry (camps for example, should not think that Mission Support is the only way to support these ministries). President Jennifer suggested that a conversation with the growth animator (starting January, 2024) might be beneficial for the circle.

1. Spring 2024 Tri-Regional Council Meeting: confirm person to serve on tri-regional planning team with President Jennifer.

President Jennifer will be suggesting to the ARW and HF presidents, that the equity support person for each regional council be included on the tri regional planning team.

Terry Smith volunteered to serve on the tri regional planning team and to serve as A&B chair for the WOWRC spring planning team. Wonder Chimvinga volunteered to serve on the planning teams.

WOWRC Executive **agreed** by consensus.

**New Business**

1. Request from Massie United Church

Ann noted that Massie United Church’s new governance model was approved by the Congregational Support Commission at their last meeting (November 9, 2023). Ann provided some background for new members.

It was agreed by consensus that President Jennifer will send letters of thanks and appreciation to both David Shearman and the Massie congregation.

**MOTION:** Ann Harbridge / Brent Caslick

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees

That the congregation of Massie United Church, having fulfilled the intent and direction of

the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council found in the letter of Regional Council Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa to the congregation, dated March 26, 2021 by:

1. continuing to worship regularly as a community of faith;
2. adopting a new governance model and electing officers;
3. fully revising the Roll of the Congregation;
4. properly naming Trustees and confirming the property of Massie United Church is properly

registered in the name of the United Church of Canada;

1. securing the services of a bookkeeping service and a local treasurer;

is returned to a Satisfactory state effective November 15, 2023.

**CARRIED.**

Ann Harbridge asked for permission to put the motion in the Congregational Support Commission community of faith motion tracking document. The Executive **agreed** by consensus.

2. Learning Fund Grant Application (Andrea Allan)

**MOTION:** Brent Caslick / Terry Smith

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the awarding of a Learning Fund Grant in the amount of $500 to Andrea Allan.

**CARRIED.**

3. Ministry Preparation Fund: Stream 2 Candidate Bursary: Treasurer will speak to this

**MOTION:** Ann Harbridge / Heather Leffler

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council endorses the awarding of a Candidates Bursary to Katherine Keilty in the amount of $2,000.00.

**CARRIED.**

Going forward bursaries will be reported to the Executive

President Jennifer suggested the recruitment team have a place on the executive agenda on a recurring schedule. Also asked if anything to report on clusters.

Heather Leffler indicated the recruitment team would love to have a space on Sharepoint. Staff will follow-up.

Planning for the cluster gatherings continues; going through the video prepared previously and updating, setting suggested geographical clusters. The hope is to have it all ready by the end of November.

Staff noted that the governance handbook will be updated in the new year. Reminder to remove resource pools. Heather Leffler suggested that pastoral charge supervisors and liaisons be added to the expression of interest. These expressions of interest would be passed onto commissions. WOWRC Executive agreed by consensus with this suggestion

4. C-A Party info: Tues Dec 12, 1:30-3:30 in person only, Avondale UC Stratford

There will be speeches at around 2 pm. Staff Support Committee will be presenting a gift.

5.Upcoming Meeting:

Tri-Regional Executive meeting: Saturday December 2, 9 am – 12:30 pm, via zoom (no Friday evening meeting). Option for WOW Executive to meet on own from 1 pm – 2:30 pm, if needed. Notetaker, if required: Ann Harbridge. No other December meeting.

President Jennifer provided an update on the Executive Minister search process. Second interviews completed, in the process of confirming with the successful candidate their availability. No firm date when announcement will be made as there are many factors that play into when it can be announced.

**Next regular meeting: January 17, 2024, 9:30 am, via zoom**

Meeting adjourned with prayer from President Jennifer.