MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

December 6, 2023

Present: President Jennifer Irving; Past President Mark Laird; Treasurer Brent Caslick; Andrea Allan; Jessica Cottrell; Ann Harbridge; Andrew Hyde; Cathy Larmond; Beth Kerr; Heather Leffler; Terry Smith

Guests: Wonder Chimvinga; Kathy Douglas; John Egger; Cathy Hird

Staff: Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

With a quorum present, President Jennifer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the words:

*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, I call this meeting of the Executive to order for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of this meeting are this Zoom call.*

In the absence of Executive Assistant, Sue Duliban, Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann, agreed to act as recording secretary.

**Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement**

President Jennifer then led an opening reflection based on one published by Richard Rohr’s Center for Action and Contemplation which quoted the words of Eddy Hilsom, author of Life Interrupted, focused on holding on to God with us when others refuse to see God in us. President Jennifer then used this image to acknowledge how settler culture has often failed to see God in First Nation people.

**New Executive Minister**

President Jennifer was delighted to share that the General Council will be issuing an announcement later today that Mark Laird will become Executive Minister of the south-western Ontario regional councils effective March 1, 2024. The Executive showed their delight with applause.

**2024 Mission Support Grants**

President Jennifer noted that due to conflicts of interest for members of the Discipleship and Justice Commission, the Mission Support Grant amounts needed to be finalized by the Executive. The Executive thanks the Commission for their diligence on this matter. Two options have been presented as possibilities and the Executive discussed both.

**MOTION:** Ann Harbridge / Heather Leffler

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve Mission Support Grants for 2024 as outlined in Option 2 presented by the Commission:

Five Oaks $10,000

Camp Bimini $15,000

Camp Menesetung $15,000

Grey Bruce Spiritual Care Council $31,000

Guelph University Ecumenical Camp Ministry $29,000

Christian Resource Centre $11,000

Grand River Education & Spiritual $ 4,000

The Hub, Trinity U.C. Kitchener $17,500

Westminster United Church $ 2,500

Total Grants $135,000.

**CARRIED.**

Andrea Allan, Brent Caslick, and Andrew Hyde abstained due to their involvement with grant recipients. Beth Kerr abstained due to internet difficulty limiting her ability to hear the discussion.

Cathy Hird, Kathy Douglas and John Egger left the meeting.

**2022 Financial Statements**

Treasurer Brent presented the 2022 Financial Statements and identifying a few topics, none of which change the final figures. Plans are being made to follow up on these.

**MOTION:** Brent Caslick / Cathy Larmond

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approve the audited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2022 and circulate the same to the membership.

**CARRIED.**

**SharePoint**

It was agreed that a tutorial is needed to help Executive members navigate the SharePoint site. It will be planned for the new year.

**Recruitment**

It was agreed by consensus to appoint Peter Kupfer to the Congregational Support Commission effective January 1, 2024.

**Clergy Luncheon**

It was agreed by consensus to cover the cost of a luncheon for active and retired clergy the first week of February in Mount Forest. Minister, Pastoral Support, Kevin Steeper is organizing this event.

**Keward Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery**

MOTION: Mark Laird / Ann Harbridge

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils authorizes:

1. The transfer of the Seward Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery to Sullivan Township with the President, Treasurer, and Executive Minister acting as Trustees (according to policy) and
2. Payment of any legal expenses attached to this transfer.

**CARRIED.**

Cheryl-Ann shared on update on the health of former Executive member, Tim Reaburn, and agreed to keep the Executive informed.

**Property Title**

Ann Harbridge noted the problem of congregations who have not updated title. It was suggested that the Congregational Support Commission might secure legal help to conduct title searches to be able to identify where title is still in the name of a prior denomination.

Having reached 10:00 a.m. when some Executive members needed to leave and having concluded the business of the meeting, President Jennifer declared the meeting adjourned.