**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**MINUTES**

WOWRC Executive Meeting

January 17, 2024

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

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

**Regrets:** Andrea Allan

# 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:** Named the **tr**aditional lands where joining from today in chat

**Opening Worship:** President Jennifer read a reflection from Joyce Rupp’s book *The Cup of Our Life* and closed with a breath prayer and prayer.

**Opening Agreements**

## 1. Consent Docket

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees by consensus to adopt the consent docket.

1. **Enabling Actions**
2. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2023, December 6, 2023 and January 13, 2024 be approved as distributed.
4. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

**B**.  **Confirmation of Email Vote**

231208

MOTION: Terry Smith/Ann Harbridge

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways authorizes an additional $1,000 in support of the Ontario Quebec Native People's Retreat in 2023. This amount to be paid directly to Five Oaks to assist with the outstanding invoice. CARRIED.

240103

MOTION: Terry Smith/Brent Caslick

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways, in light of Rev. Dennis Posno’s limited availability, removes Rev. Dennis Posno as one of the Trustees of Victoria United Church, Honeywood, in order to proceed with the transfer of Victoria United Church, Honeywood Cemetery to the municipality as soon as possible. CARRIED.

(Badjeros Grey-Dufferin Pastoral Charge)

**C. Correspondence Received**

1. Learning Fund Grant Application: received from Wonder Chimvinga. Amount requested $500.
2. WOWRC PTCC Net Revenue Grant Application.
3. 231218 WOWRC Investment Team Meeting Minutes (FOR INFORMATION ONLY).

**D.** **Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Omnibus motion – January 17, 2024**

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

1. Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council

   …pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council 2023-2024 Board of Directors

    Bill Allen

Greg Case

Bob Elliott

Mary Feldskov

John Fraser

Richard Kleri

Nancy Lennox

Cindy Lunau

Cecil Omand

Mark Rutledge

Kathy Stephens

*This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of June 22, 2023, the 2023 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.*

**Business Arising**

1. Proposal 4: Celebrating, Commemorating UCC 100th (carried forward from January 13, 2024 meeting)

It was agreed by consensus that a task force be formed to present ideas for celebrating and commemorating the UCC 100th and recommend whether to do jointly with Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls or singly as a region. Ann Harbridge and Jennifer Irving will serve on the task force; others to be determined. The task force will bring their suggestions to the April meeting of the Executive.

1. Proposal 5: Hosting GC46 (carried forward from January 13, 2024 meeting)

WOWRC Executive will hold to hear the decision from HF Executive as to whether they would be prepared to host.

1. Proposal 6 WOWRC Executive Financial Matters: Signing Authority (carried forward from January 13, 2024 meeting)

**MOTION:** Heather Leffler / Ann Harbridge

That the WOWRC Executive agrees to

1. Remove Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa:
2. As one of the individuals who can authorize expenses; and
3. As a member of the investment team

Effective March 1, 2024 and communicate the same to the General Council Office and to investment advisor, BMO;

1. Name Mark Laird as one of the individuals who can authorize expenses effective March 1, 2024 and communicate the same to the General Council Office;

(Authorization requires any two of Mark Laird, Susan Duliban, Krista Ford, and Brent Caslick)

1. Name Mark Laird as a member of the Investment Team, effective March 1, 2024 and communicate the same to investment advisor, BMO; (Investment Team: Mark Laird, Brent Caslick, Bruce Dickson, Terry Smith)
2. Remind the investment team to minute their meetings and to submit the minutes to the Executive for information.

**CARRIED.** Mark Laird: Abstention

1. Commission Reports
   1. Congregational Support: Written report received

Ann Harbridge, Chair, raised a question from her written report requiring discussion; does the Congregational Support Commission have the authority to grant permission for the funds held in trust to be used for other purposes. The congregation already has permission to use the interest from these funds held in trust for whatever purposes they desire. Can we grant permission for specific requests such a portion of the proceeds to be given as a donation to the Indigenous Church, as a response to the Calls to the Church to support Indigenous Ministries. If so, would we also specify that the funds are to be used for Capital projects within the Indigenous church or could the funds be given without restrictions? Or should it not be given at all?

Some points raised during discussion: needs to be time-limited and it would be part of what a congregation gives. Perhaps congregation can redirect, but not more than 30% and that this will be considered their 30% if they disband within 10 years of the date of the gift. Wording needs to be carefully considered. Very colonial to tell the Indigenous Church what to do with their money. It was agreed that this be sent back to the Commission and that the Commission bring a proposal to the Executive.

Jessica Cottrell left the meeting.

* 1. Human Resources

Cathy Larmond, HR rep to Executive, provided an update on the Commission’s work. Three people are moving towards Licenced Lay Worship Leader (LLWL). Trying to find a way to make the LLWL list more accessible (currently those seeking an LLWL contact Micol Cottrell, Minister Pastoral Relations, and he sends out). Suggestion from Executive: can it be put on ChurchHub.

Upcoming clergy gathering: President Jennifer reiterated that the invitation, per executive, was to be open to all clergy; reminder for next invitation.

There is going to be an online gathering for Designated Lay Ministers (DLM). Names of those on medical leave were shared with the commission (names only).

Policy created to address people in short terms appointments who then would like to move to be in long term or call.

M&P training: expanding to make a little wider, just starting to work on this. Suggestion from Executive: maybe do search team training as well.

Suggestion from staff: the executive assistant requires updates on those retiring, moving regional councils, provinces, etc., for maintenance of marriage licences and for honouring of retirees at the regional council meeting.

A 5-minute break was taken.

c. Discipleship & Justice. Chair Andrew Hyde noted the commission did not meet in December and will be meeting January 30. Work on the remit continues. Have been getting updates on votes still needed to come in and it is progressing well. A couple of prospective commission members will be sitting in at upcoming meetings, to get an idea of the work of the commission.

1. Declaration of Business Trust document

**MOTION:** Ann Harbridge / Cathy Larmond

That the WOWRC Executive directs Executive Minister, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, to act as the Settlor and to enter into the Business Trust Agreement with UPRC (United Property Resource Corporation) as presented with the addition of the serial number for the required $20.

**CARRIED.**

Mark Laird noted that once information on funds coming in begins to be received, the executive will have to have a conversation on how to manage the funds.

5. Clarification of terms for those appointed in between regional councils:

It was **agreed** by consensus that the term of executive/commission members runs from calendar year when it commenced to the regional council meeting three years later.

6. Cluster Groups

Update from Heather Leffler. Preparing materials for people to go out and meet in clusters.

The purpose of the gatherings is to pass on information about WOW, receive questions or concerns and help make connections where none exist. Heather will circulate the list of clusters (none of which are carved in stone) to the executive for feedback. It is hoped that people from executive and commissions will be able to go out and meet with the cluster groups.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa noted that GCO will have a nominations template, position description and count of commissioners for each regional council, ready February 10th. GC45 commissioner nomination information to be posted on the WOWRC website by the end of February.

Reminder from President Jennifer that election of a President Elect for WOWRC will be on the spring meeting agenda.

**New Business**

1. Learning Fund Grant Application (Wonder Chimvinga)

**MOTION:** Mark Laird / Beth Kerr

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

**CARRIED.** Wonder Chimvinga declared a conflict of interest and abstained from vote.

1. WOWRC PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation) Net Revenue Grant Application (see the account)

**MOTION:** Beth Kerr / Terry Smith

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council approves the presented application for a net revenue PTCC grant in the amount of $60,000.00.

**CARRIED.** Mark Laird and Brent Caslick abstained from the vote.

**MOTION:** Beth Kerr / Ann Harbridge

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees to apply the balance of the unused 2022 net revenue generated to the WOWRC account within PTCC. **CARRIED**. Mark Laird and Brent Caslick abstained from the vote.

Mark Laird will offer his resignation to PTCC at their next meeting.

Andrew Hyde left the meeting.

**Next regular meeting: February 21, 2024, 9:30 am, via zoom**

To be carried forward to February meeting

* Sharepoint tutorial at 9:15 am, prior to the meeting at 9:30. Ann Harbridge is also willing to review with folks individually at any time.

Worship

* 30 minutes for brief discussion around how to proceed with evaluation feedback and bigger picture thinking to see if we can come to a decision if we want to set aside an in-person time with a facilitator or similar.
* Business including written commission reports. It may be that some commissions will be out of sync by a month, depending when their meetings are held. Noted: it is important to remember the commissions are not committees; they make their own decisions.

Everyone was given an opportunity to share, as comfortable, what was done well in today’s meeting in living towards the commitment to be an equitable church.

**Adjournment**