**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**MINUTES**

**WOWRC Executive Meeting**

**February 21, 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:** Jessica Cottrell

**9:15 AM:** Sharepoint tutorial, for those interested(Ann Harbridge)

# 9:30 AM 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:** President Jennifer

**Opening Worship:** President Jennifer shared a Lenten Devotional and invited those gathered, as comfortable, to name a time when changing your perspective, view of something, helped encourage and inspire you or others. President Jennifer closed with prayer.

**Opening Agreements**

WOWRC Executive **agreed** by consensus to accept the consent docket.

## 1. Consent Docket

1. Enabling Actions
2. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2024 be approved as distributed.
4. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B Staff Position Descriptions (For Information only)

Receive the updated Staff Position Descriptions approved by the Staff Support Committee on January

31, 2024.

C. Correspondence Received

WOWRC: PTCC grant approval letter. (For information only)

D. Executive Minister Accountability Report February 2024 (For Information only)

E. Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (8) Omnibus motion – February 21, 2024

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

1. Bimini United Church Camp (Camp Bimini)

….pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Bimini United Church Camp 2023-2024 Board of Directors

    Bob Doupe

Amy Halls

Harry Hengeveld

Scott Kell

Dannielle McLagan

Karen McLagan

David MacLennan

Andrew Middleton

Kathy Poirier

Mary Taylor

Golda Wilson

Kelli Zehr

*This is based on the draft Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting 2023 of December 4, 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.*

1. Camp Menesetung

 …pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Camp Menesetung 2023-2024 Board of Directors

    Janet Bettles

Maarten Bokhout

Tracy Emmerton

Gary Gravett

ShariAnne Kuiper

Steve Miners

Ralph H. Watson

Jeff Wareham

*This is based on the draft minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of October 24, 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. 30 minutes for brief discussion around how to proceed with evaluation feedback and bigger picture thinking. To be decided: set aside an in-person time with a facilitator or similar?

It was agreed that the Going Deeper Into the Evaluation Report be divided amongst executive members; to review what is in progress, what needs to still be attended to and what can be parked. Beth Kerr volunteered to divide the sections amongst the executive. Short reports to be created on each section, with aim of inclusion of a “progress” report in the spring meeting workbook. Time will be set aside at the beginning of the March meeting to review.

1. UCC 100th Anniversary Celebration: Task group ideas

Ann Harbridge presented the task group’s initial ideas. Points raised:$17,000 available from budget (not going into the reserves). Organizers recognize that event(s) have to be volunteer led. Idea is to have a picnic atmosphere with games for kids, activities. Could each of the camps run a children’s activity for example.

Concern was expressed that the gathering event is suggested for a Sunday in the fall, replacing Sunday worship. Suggestion that a Saturday might be a better day. Also suggested: a large church could be used for the event, don’t necessarily need to book an arena or similar venue.

The task group will explore options to hold an inspirational, regional council gathering/rally type event to bring back to the Executive with a fuller outline and draft budget.

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support: Ann Harbridge. The commission is working on some collaborative agreements. Also reviewing the pastoral charge supervisor pcs payment policy as it pertains to the Indigenous church – recognizing there should have been more consultation when the policy was initially developed. Looking at requiring congregations to establish an investment policy. Updating of website map/info etc. when church closes: as time permits. Ann noted it is done at the national level and she is not sure when the national website is updated.
3. Human Resources: Cathy Larmond. Three people licenced as Licenced Lay Worship Leaders. Could they be recognized at the spring meeting. Agreed fall meeting would be a better time to recognize them during the time given to the commission on the agenda. Follow-up re: providing information to the regional council governing official (Sue Duliban) when people transfer in or out of the regional council so that the Marriage Office can be updated. Staff and the HR Commission chair will meet to discuss.
4. Discipleship & Justice: Andrew Hyde. Appointment of new commissioner today will mean the commission will have enough members to function. Continuing work on Remit 1. Deadline is coming up. For future discussion, likely at the fall meeting: revisiting the priorities that guide how M&S grant work is accomplished.
5. Hosting GC46: update for information

Horseshoe Falls Executive decided at their meeting on January 24, 2024, that they would welcome the opportunity to host GC 46. While they know they can count on the support of ARWRC and WOWRC, they have offered the invitation in their name and to take on this role by themselves for ease of planning.

**New Business**

1. Staff update (Cheryl-Ann): Ruthanna Mack is making her health a priority and will not be returning

to regional council duties.

1. Volunteer Recruitment Team: Expression of Interest Received: Kate Ballagh-Steeper

The Volunteer Recruitment Team recommends that the WOWRC Executive appoint Kate Ballagh-Steeper to the Discipleship and Justice Commission effective February 21, 2024. It was a**greed** by consensus that Kate Ballagh-Steeper be appointed to the Discipleship and Justice Commission effective February 21, 2024.

The Volunteer Recruitment Team asked that the deadline for GC45 Commissioner nominations be changed from April 15, 2024 to May 1, 2024. **Agreed** by consensus.

1. Proposal 1: Celebration of Ministry Service Planning Deadline

It was **agreed** by consensus: That for a candidate to be able to be Ordained, Commissioned, Recognized or Admitted during the Celebration of Ministry service at a Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council meeting, they need to have their provisional call approved by the Human Resources Commission no later than 6 weeks before the Celebration of Ministry service is set to take place. If a provisional call is not in place by this time, that candidate will wait until the next regularly scheduled Celebration of Ministry service to become Ordained, Commissioned, Recognized or Admitted into The United Church of Canada.

Mark Laird noted that this will be the policy, but exceptions can always be made to the policy if the need arises. It was agreed that it is important to have a sense of expectations; much kinder to all concerned.

1. Ministry Preparation Fund: Stream 2 Candidate Bursary

**MOTION:** Andrea Allan / Brent Caslick

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council endorses the awarding of a Candidates Bursary from the Ministry Preparation Fund Stream 2 to Sonja van de Hoef in the amount of $2,000.00.  **CARRIED.**

Next regular meeting: March 20, 2024, 9:30 am, via zoom.

As this was Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa’s final meeting with the WOW Executive, President Jennifer thanked her, on behalf of the Executive, for her invaluable leadership, guidance and wisdom. The WOW Executive wished Cheryl-Ann blessings on her new adventures.

Adjournment.