**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes**

**WOWRC Executive Meeting March 20, 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:** Mark Laird, Executive Minister, Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:** Andrea Allan, Jennifer Irving, Terry Smith

**Acting President** (in President Jennifer Irving’s absence): Heather Leffler

# Welcome and Constitution of Meeting (Acting President Heather): 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/Welcome/Opening Worship:** Heather Leffler shared the Land Acknowledgement used at her church and invited the sharing of treaties/lands in the chat. Gospel reading: John 12:20-33. Those gathered were invited to share, as comfortable, what might God be asking of us or our church to let die to find new life.

Executive Minister Mark Laird asked the Executive to hold President Jennifer and her family, ARW President Cheryl and her family and HF President Lennox Scarlett in prayer as all face either family or personal health challenges.

**Opening Agreements**

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (WOWRC) Executive **agrees** 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 February 21, 2024 be approved as distributed.
4. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.
5. Correspondence Received
6. PTCC 2024 Directors Nominees
7. TUCC Invitation to AGM and Background Information

**Business Arising**

1. Regional Council Evaluation: Review of reports for “progress” report in the spring meeting workbook.

Beth Kerr briefly reviewed her report on Section 5. Detailed discussion arose from the report specifically in reference to the suggestion of preparing an update similar to the former Conference Settlement Committee report, and the idea of a regional council directory. Discussion continued on the wisdom of preparing a directory, the responsibility of sharing contact information and how to make the information accessible to people. Also mentioned, the responsibility of communities of faith to find out who their neighbours are – not necessarily by referring to a directory. It was agreed the cluster gatherings and clergy gatherings are a good step towards communities of faith getting to know each other. Issues with ChurchHub and the discomfort of many with technology were also touched upon.

It was agreed that the reports on sections of the regional council evaluation would be posted in the Executive Working Library in Sharepoint by April 9 (except for one section requiring further input). Beth Kerr will put the reports together into one document draft for the spring meeting workbook and pull out questions that still have to be dealt with, as questions for the Executive. The Executive will discuss at their April 17 meeting.

Mark Laird noted that during the individual regional council time at the spring meeting, there will be time on the agenda to talk about the response to the evaluation.

1. UCC 100th Anniversary Celebration: Outline/draft budget

The outline/draft budget will be presented at the next Executive meeting.

1. Victoria United Church, Honeywood Cemetery

**MOTION:** Ann Harbridge / Beth Kerr

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees the Regional Council will pay the lawyer fees when the Victoria United Church, Honeywood Cemetery is transferred to the municipality. The fee payment to come from property net funds. **CARRIED.**

1. Commission Reports
2. Congregational Support (written report received). Chair Ann Harbridge highlighted the desperate need for volunteers to review annual reports. Mark Laird wondered if that is something for which it might be helpful to offer an honourarium. It could come out of the CSC budget.
3. Human Resources (written report received).
4. Discipleship & Justice: Chair Andrew Hyde noted that we are just about at the end of the period for remit 1, with a final push for churches to vote. WOWRC data at March 11: 75.1% had voted 32 left of 129. It was noted that a stumbling block that has been recognized for congregations is finding their Mission and Support id number. Staff have helped congregations with that issue.

**New Business**

1. Chalmers’ Closing Documents

MOTION: Ann Harbridge / Brent Caslick

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council receives the following update on property and financial matters from Chalmers Community Services which

1. confirms that Chalmers is no longer a member of 42C holding the property 42 Carden Street, Guelph, Ontario, being Part Lot 115, Plan 8, as in CS49827, Guelph, as described in PIN 71284-0021 ;
2. confirms that Chalmers is therefore no longer a guarantor of the mortgage on said property; and
3. lastly, confirms that Chalmers will be repaid the $500,000 loan it provided to 42C in 2016.

**CARRIED.**

Note: The lease for Chalmers Community Services to rent space from 42C was approved by the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways in December 2022.

1. Proposal 1: Audacious Hope Registration Fee Subsidy for First 100 Participants from ARW/WOW/HF Regional Councils

**MOTION**: Ann Harbridge / Cathy Larmond

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees to approve the following:

1. That the ARW/WOW and HF Regional Councils subsidize the Audacious Hope event registration fee by $325 for the first 100 registrants from any of the three Regional Councils.
2. That the ARW/WOW and HF Regional Councils share equally the cost of the subsidized registration fee for the first 100 participants who register for Audacious Hope from ARW, WOW, or HF Regional Councils.
3. That the ARW/WOW/HF Executives direct the Executive Minister and Regional Council Treasurers to pay the registration fee subsidy out of applicable grants or unrestricted reserves.

**CARRIED.** 1 Abstention: Andrew Hyde

1. PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation) Director Nominations
2. The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to appoint Brent Caslick as a PTCC Director for a four-year term from 2024 to 2028. 1 Absention: Brent Caslick

It was agreed that in future, the recruitment committee will manage the responsibility of finding directors, for both PTCC and TUCC

To be brought forward to the next meeting of the Executive.

1. Present a new Director nominee to the June 5, 2024 PTCC AGM for a term of three (3) years from 2024 to 2027 who would serve Mark Laird’s remaining three-year term to 2027.
2. Toronto United Church Council (TUCC)

To be brought forward to the next meeting of the Executive.

1. TUCC Annual Meeting: Invitation to name two people as Members of the TUCC Corporation to represent WOWRC at the TUCC AGM, June 6, 2024.
2. Suggestions welcome of names of those who might be interested in role as director for 2024/25.
3. Fall WOWRC meeting dates

After discussion about pros and cons of evening/day, weeknight/weekend dates, day long zoom meetings, it was agreed to hold a day long fall meeting on November 16, 2024. Depending on what agenda items arise, a Friday evening meeting (Nov. 15) may also be scheduled. If a Celebration of Ministry Service is to be held, it will be scheduled for Sunday, November 17.

1. Save the Date: June 19, 2024 Executive/Commissions Orientation
2. Spring meeting update. Unifor accommodation is now at capacity. In person registrants will need to book accommodation offsite. Celebration of Ministries Service: there will be a cap of 10 guests per person for candidates and DLMs, including the three for laying on of hands.

Next regular meeting:April 17, 2024, 9:30 am, via zoom.

Following time for checkout, the meeting was adjourned.