**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**MINUTES**

**May 15, 2024 via zoom**

**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 Brent Caslick,

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

**Regrets:** Andrea Allan, Beth Kerr, Jessica Cottrell, Heather Leffler

**Corresponding Member**: Dawn Blanchard

# 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/Welcome/Opening Worship:** (President Jennifer): President Jennifer shared a reading on “Lament”, closing with prayer.

President Jennifer acknowledged Wonder Chimvinga’s wonderful calling to the Admissions Board. Unfortunately it means he can no longer serve on Executive. President Jennifer expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Executive, for the gifts he brought to the Executive. And deep gratitude for his willingness to serve on the Admissions Board.

Wonder expressed his thanks to Executive for all that has been shared during his time with them; the Executive’s dedication, passion is nothing short of inspiring. Wonder left the meeting after sharing the Irish blessing: “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand”.

President Jennifer welcome Dawn Blanchard, on the Executive/Commissions slate for the secretary position.

The WOWRC Executive **agreed** by consensus to make Dawn Blanchard a corresponding member for the meeting.

**Opening Agreements**

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

A. Enabling Actions

1. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

2. That the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2024 be approved as distributed.

3. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.

B. Confirmation of Email votes

April 29, 2024

MOTION: Ann Harbridge / Terry Smith:

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees to forward to PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation) for their consideration, the grant application from Trillium United Church, Cambridge in the amount of $16,000 for their Wellness program.

CARRIED with Brent Caslick abstaining from the vote.

May 1, 2024

The Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees by consensus to amend the PTCC grant amount requested by Trillium United Church, Cambridge, to $6.417.81 (as noted in the grant application). Brent Caslick abstained.

C. Correspondence Received

1. Learning Fund Grant Application: received from Brenda Torrie

**Business Arising**

1. Recommendations from the Recruitment Team
2. That the WOWRC Executive **agree** by consensus to appoint

Peter Kupfer to serve as a director of PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference) from 2024-2027

Betty Morrison to serve as a member of PTCC from WOWRC for the 2024 Annual Meeting

James Montgomery to serve as a member of PTCC from WOWRC for the 2024 Annual Meeting. CARRIED.

These three will join Brent Caslick appointed as director of PTCC from 2024-2028 in March 2023.

1. That the WOWRC Executive **agree** by consensus to appoint as TUCC (Toronto United Church Council) members representing WOWRC at the TUCC AGM on June 6, 2024: John Fraser and Michael Torrie. CARRIED.
2. Commission Reports
3. Congregational Support (written report received) Ann Harbridge referred to the written report. Arising

from the report, a question for discussion: regarding funds that come to the region from the sale of church property.

The property policy details how funds are to be disbursed following the sale of church property from a disbanding congregation. 30% is determined by the congregation. 25% comes to the regional council “to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to Communities of Faith and for new church development.”

The congregational support commission would like to explore how those funds could be used to support congregations in our region to bolster their sustainability. i.e. could we support a community of faith with their mortgage? Could we use funds to hire a minister to work in a collaborative cluster? Who determines the use of these funds?

Mark Laird noted that he is currently working on getting a full understanding of financials. And he and all three regional council treasurers are working on this issue. Following some general discussion about the importance of determining how to utilize these funds, it was agreed that it would be better to have this discussion when Mark, and treasurer Brent Caslick have a better overall understanding. Suggested also that when that discussion is held, Greg Smith-Young, as Growth Animator, should also be included.

To be included on the agenda for the next executive meeting; to keep track of the issue, even if decisions aren’t made until the fall.

b. Human Resources (written report received). Cathy Larmond referred to her written report; noting a cluster group has been formed for LLWLs.

c. Discipleship & Justice: Chair Andrew Hyde. The Audacious Hope early bird registrations closes soon; there has not be a huge uptake. Raises the question, what is needed to regain traction with youth.

Those who worked on the remint callout will be holding a debriefing session. Affirming flags will be presented to newly affirming communities of faith at the spring meeting.

**New Business**

1. Learning Fund: Approval of grant

**MOTION:** Brent Caslick / Ann Harbridge

That the WOWRC Executive approve the awarding of a Learning Fund Grant, in the amount of $500 to Brenda Torrie. **CARRIED.**

2. Follow-up on regional council evaluation document is in the working library in Sharepoint. Mark Laird will edit the document for the spring meeting workbook.

3. Recruitment team is trying to recruit an Indigenous Ministries representative; have not yet been successful. President Jennifer asked that if anyone on the Executive knows of someone, please suggest to the Recruitment Team.

4. President Jennifer suggested that the Executive keep a prayer list to hold up those in special need or celebrating special joys. Agreed. Executive members will add their prayer concerns to meeting agendas in Sharepoint.

President Jennifer then shared a prayer.

Upcoming Meetings

• May 24-26, 2024: Spring Tri-Regional Council

• June 19, 2024: Executive/Commissions Orientation, Calvary, St. Jacob’s Agenda: 9:30-11 Executive meets / 11:30-12:30: Orientation / 12:30-1:30: lunch / 1:30-2: possible further orientation / 2-3: Commissions

Check-out: The meeting ended with those gathered sharing what was done at this meeting to live into our executive’s Affirm priorities.

Adjournment.