

January 29, 2019

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 by video conference. The meeting began at 10:06 a.m.

**Members Present**

Calin Lau, Christine Smaller, Emma Pipes, Harry Ramsaran, Kevin Logie, Cindy Randall, Jody Maltby (Staff Lead)

**Regrets**

Ross Leckie

**Welcome, constituting the meeting and prayer**

As there was not yet a chair of the commission, Jody Maltby, Staff Lead, welcomed everyone and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Staff Lead lit a Christ candle and acknowledged that each person was sitting on land that is part of the traditional territories of First Nations Peoples, holy ground that they cared for and continue to care for, land that was taken from them by settlers. The commission paused for a moment to acknowledge the damage that has been done to Indigenous Peoples.

The Staff Lead then invited everyone into a time of reflection and prayer around what it has taken, as a church and individually, to get to this place in our communal life.

The members of the commission introduced themselves and shared one thing that will help us work well together.

**Agenda**

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Harry Ramsaran that the agenda consist of items that had been circulated to the committee in advance of this meeting be approved.

MOTION

CARRIED

How do we fit in the Region?

The Staff Lead provided an overview of the governance structure of Shining Waters Regional Council. She explained the ongoing work of the Indigenous church to

determine their relationship with the wider United Church and the current administrative agreement with Indigenous ministries within our geographic region.

The Regional Executive is still working on policies and procedures that will inform the work of this commission. We will be invited to give input once a draft is ready for consideration. This will include policies for the Interim Ministry Committee which will report to this commission.

### What is Our Work?

The commission reviewed their mandate and discussed significant pieces of work including how we will covenant with communities of faith, encouraging visioning work, supporting property matters and amalgamations, closures and Shared Ministries.

There was discussion about the need to prioritize the work and develop timelines for how we will approach the varied aspects. It was noted that we might choose to have subcommittees or task groups with different members of the commission taking the lead on specific areas of work.

The Staff Lead will seek clarity on the role of the commission if a review of a community of faith is needed under section J8 of *The Manual*.

The commission asked the questions “what does it mean to be a community of faith?” and “what does it mean to be viable?”. We will need to have discussions about this. The commission was encouraged to rely on work that has already been done, including the work of the task group that developed the policies for the New Ministry Development and Leadership Fund.

### Budget and Expenses

The commission discussed the importance of shifting the way we do business as a way to be environmentally responsible and to make the best use of human and financial resources. Volunteers working with communities of faith will be encouraged to make use of technology as much as possible.

The commission looked at a first draft of a proposed budget and made recommendations. An updated version will be presented at the February meeting for approval.

### Volunteer Recruitment

When a community of faith needs support with visioning work – which could include discussions of shared ministry, property matters, or a decision to amalgamate or close, the Staff Lead may make use of trained, skilled volunteers to support this work.

Christine Smaller will have a conversation with Jody and Susie Henderson about developing a strategy to identify potential volunteers who are not currently involved at

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the regional level. This could include folks in local communities of faith who have specific skills and a desire to serve the church.

The commission will also provide by email to the Staff Lead suggestions of potential volunteers – both those who have served at the presbytery level and others who might be willing to serve.

The commission will continue to identify the skills and gifts that are needed for specific areas of work. Selection of volunteers will include discernment with them to be sure that this work is the best fit for their gifts and that they understand fully the scope of the work, including the expectation that much communication will use technology.

Once we have a pool of volunteers, they will need to be trained and supported.

It was also noted that we need people to resource the decision-making process of the commission, offering insight and perspectives that we need to consider to help us make the best decisions to support communities of faith.

### Commission Business

#### 1. Election of Chairperson and Secretary

MOVED by Cindy Randall/Kevin Logie that Christine Smaller serve as chairperson of the commission until the end of June 2019.

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission agreed not to have a secretary at this time. This can be revisited as the work of the commission becomes clearer. The Staff Lead will work with the Chairperson to develop the agenda and will take minutes until June 2019.

#### 2. Schedule of Meetings to June 2019

The Staff Lead will send out a doodle poll to find the best date and time for the February video conference meeting, focusing on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

There is presently an in-person meeting scheduled for June 18, 2019 at New Hope United Church. The Pastoral Relations Commission will meet at the same time in the same location to allow for cross-pollination.

#### 3. Signatories for CFC Paperwork

MOVED byt Kevin Logie/Calin Lau that the Chairperson and the Staff Lead be named as signatories for any paperwork of the commission.

MOTION

CARRIED

It is the expectation that only one signature is required for most paperwork that the commission will approve, particularly with respect to property matters. If it turns out that two signatures are needed on a regular basis and that the paperwork can't be scanned and emailed, the commission will revisit this issue.

4. Omnibus Motion

MOTION by Christine Smaller/Cindy Randall that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council take the following action:

... in accordance with *The Manual* section G.1.5.2 approves the request of Wexford Heights United Church to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation and commits to having an ongoing conversation about how the property might continue to be used for ministry in the community.

*As per the motion at a Congregational Meeting duly called on January 13, 2019.*

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission noted the challenges in approving this motion when the work was done in the previous structure. Going forward the commission will have walked with communities of faith through this process.

The commission expressed sadness at the closing of Wexford Heights. We hope to involve members of the congregation in ongoing discussions about property and new ministry possibilities.

5. The commission named as a future agenda item norms for how we will work together.

Closing

Christine Smaller closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.