

May 16, 17, 2019

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17, 2019**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council gathered for a retreat in Eugenia, ON beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 16 and concluding at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2019.

**Members Present**

Christine Smaller (Chairperson) Ross Leckie, Emma Pipes, Cindy Randall, Calin Lau, Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Karen Hilfman Millson (Minister Communities of Faith Support and Cluster and Network Animation)

Absent: Harry Ramsaran, Kevin Logie

The Commission gathered for dinner on Thursday and then spent the evening getting to know each other.

On Friday, Ross and Emma led worship beginning at 8:45. Christine then led the group in a visioning process to help us move toward a deeper understanding of our mission as a commission and the communities of faith we serve.

Following lunch, the commission held a brief business meeting.

**Budget**

There is still a lack of clarity about the funds available to the commission and in particular, whether our budget includes litigation expenses and the cost of reviews. It was agreed that there needs to be further conversation with the Executive Minister following the Regional Meeting.

**Correspondence**

The commission considered a letter from Jack Walsworth (of Keswick Ridge United Church, Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council) regarding West Hill United Church.

As per section J4 of The Manual (2019), the region must take seriously any concerns regarding a community of faith. These concerns may be raised by

- a) the regional council itself, including any member or committee of the regional council;
- b) the ministry personnel called or appointed to the community of faith;
- c) the pastoral charge supervisor;

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- d) the governing body of the community of faith; or
- e) a proposal signed by 10 full members of the community of faith that the community of faith's governing body has passed on to the regional council.

The commission affirmed the previous decision made on February 28, 2019, that no action is necessary by the regional council with respect to West Hill United Church.

MOTION by Emma Pipes/Calin Lau that no action is necessary by the regional council with respect to West Hill United Church.

MOTION

CARRIED

The Staff Lead will forward a response on regional letterhead signed by the chairperson. The commission will take no further action on this matter.

### **Next Meeting**

June 18, 2019, joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission, New Hope UC, Vaughan.

### **Closing**

The chair offered a blessing and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.