

January 22, 2020

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Christine Smaller (Chairperson), Carolyn Harding, Calin Lau, Ross Leckie, Amy Lee, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Emma Pipes, Cindy Randall, Harry Ramsaran Gloria Tozek,

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Karen Hilfman Millson (Staff)

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone, gave an acknowledgement of the land, and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our Region. Kevin Logie led an opening worship. Members checked in.

The chairperson constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ.

Agenda

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Amy Lee that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Kevin Logie/Ross Leckie that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 21, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Omnibus Motion

MOTION by Ross Leckie/Calin Lau that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions:

- a) **New Hope United Church loan renewal with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC)**

... Approves the loan renewal between New Hope United Church and Toronto United Church Council with the following terms and conditions:

Dated: April 1, 2020
Amount: up to \$60,076
Amortization: 12 years
Term: 3 years
Interest: 4% or the applicable mortgage rate of the Bank of Nova Scotia for the term, whichever is higher on the date of renewal.
Payment: monthly payments, principal and interest
Provisions: the renewal fee be paid (\$250)
Security: first mortgage is in place
Approval: Shining Waters Regional Council
Source of Funds: Investing in Ministry Fund

b) Bolton United Church and Palgrave United Church – Collaboration Agreement

... Approves the proposed Collaboration Agreement between Bolton United Church and Palgrave United Church dated January 2020

MOTION

CARRIED

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Gloria Tozek that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions:

Emmanuel United Church, Brampton – completion of Interim Ministry

... Accepts the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee for the approval of the request of Emmanuel United Church, Brampton, for a Pastoral Relations Liaison to provide Emmanuel with support to call a minister for a date after the completion of the appointment of the Interim Minister

MOTION

CARRIED

Updates:

- West Hill United Church, Scarborough, Offer to Purchase

West Hill has received an unsolicited offer to purchase their building. Details were provided to the commission for information. We will wait to receive a formal proposal from the congregation.

- King City United Church, Offer to Purchase

King City continues in negotiation with a purchaser for a strip of property next to the parking lot. The purchaser has requested a clause in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale that the congregation or region will send a “Friendly Neighbour” letter if additional property is available for sale.

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The commission appreciates the desire of the purchaser to be kept informed but is unable to impose this requirement on future decision-makers. The purchaser is welcome to check in with the congregation and or the region at any time in the future to enquire about the potential for further sales.

The staff lead will send a letter to King City United Church that they may share with the purchaser.

- Malvern Emmanuel United Church, Scarborough

Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) advised the region that the sale of the property at 25 Sewell Road, Scarborough closed in December. The chair of the Board advised us that the congregation has negotiated a three-month lease with the new owner. The minister has accepted a call to another community of faith.

The congregation is exploring the possibility of a shared ecumenical ministry with Malvern Presbyterian Church in which both congregations would retain their denominational identity but they would worship together in the Presbyterian church building.

- Taiwanese United Church, Thornhill

The Taiwanese congregation is continuing in conversation with the Presbyterian Taiwanese Church and with an independent Taiwanese Church about possibilities for shared ministry.

- College St. and Bathurst United Churches, Toronto

Bathurst United Church and College St United Church are no longer in conversation about shared space but there may be ongoing conversations about potential for shared programs. Bathurst will be without ministry personnel as of the end of February. There may be an opportunity for conversation about alternative models of being a community of faith that is not a congregation or pastoral charge.

Jody Maltby reported that this will be an upcoming piece of work for the commission to begin to set parameters for alternative models (e.g. house church, mission, etc.) and for lay-led communities. There have been expressions of interest in this from other congregations as well.

- Parry Sound Rural United Church - email vote

The Commission voted by email in November 2019 in favour of the Agreement of Purchase and Sale between The Corporation of the Municipality of McDougall and The Trustees of the Parry Sound Rural Pastoral Charge (re: Hope United Church)

- Handbooks and policies

Karen Hilfman Millson reported that she is collaborating with Jean Ward, former regional staff person, to develop a handbook on clusters and networks and with Islay Scott to develop handbook on shared ministry agreements. She is starting to give thought to how we might develop covenants between the region and individual communities of faith.

- St. Paul's, Midland

St. Paul's is exploring the option of a hub ministry similar to the one that is in Canadian Shield Regional Council. This is an interactive worship opportunity involving multiple congregations using technology. St. Paul's has the technology and is looking for two congregations to test the model - one in Western Ontario Waterways and one in Shining Waters Regional Council.

- Staff Training

Jody Maltby and Karen Hilfman Millson are participating in training on restorative practices through IIRP Canada (www.canada.iirp.edu) and on community innovation through the Tamarack Institute (www.tamarackcommunity.ca)

- New Staff Positions

Three full time permanent staff positions will be posted shortly:
Regional Minister for Justice and Networks
Regional Minister for Support to Communities of Faith and Right Relations
Regional Minister for Faith Formation and Youth

Policy Update: Sale of Property when a Congregation is neither amalgamating nor closing

There was conversation about the percentage of funds to be available to Indigenous Ministries. The commission named that it will be important to consult with local Indigenous communities, with the region and with the National Indigenous Council about the amount and the disbursement of these funds. The policy will be approved with the expectation of further consultation.

Monies given to the region cannot be managed by an individual commission. However, we are encouraged to ask for a budget sufficient to provide the support we want to offer to communities of faith.

MOTION by Ross Leckie/Gloria Tozek that the Communities of Faith Commission approves the Policy for the sale of property when a congregation is neither amalgamating nor closing, with a review date of June 30, 2020 pending further conversation with the region and with local Indigenous Communities.

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MOTION

CARRIED

Other Business

- Connecting with other Regions
Gloria Tozek raised a question about how we might better communicate and partner with other regions. Is it possible to offer links on our website to their websites and/or to promote their events on our website?

Karen and Jody will follow up with other staff regarding this.

- Joint meeting with Pastoral Relations Commission
We are open to the possibility of a joint meeting with the Pastoral Relations Commission. Commission members are asked to hold June 2, 2020 as a possible date. Staff will consult around whether the Social and Ecological Justice Commission should also be included. This will be dependent on the agenda items.
- Next meeting: February 19th at 9:30 a.m. via zoom. Opening worship by Ross Leckie

Closing

Christine offered a blessing and the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.