

**SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING  
May 24 – 26, 2019**

The inaugural meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on May 24 - 26, 2019 at Georgian College, 1 Georgian Drive, Barrie, Ontario. The theme was *Creating Connections*.

**FRIDAY, May 24, 2019**

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

Opening of Meeting and constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered at the Sacred Fire to begin the inaugural meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. Marg Walker, Co-chair, constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together, to deal with such business as should properly come before the Council.

Co-chair, David Leyton-Brown gave the Acknowledgement of the Land. Mark Douglas, storytelling elder of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, welcomed the regional council members to the land.

Head Fire Keeper Jess Bimwidoon Waazkon Swance-Smith, Knowledge Keeper Rev. Evan Noodin Smith and Fire Keepers Paige Whiteway and Brooke-Lynn ClaphamHaynes were introduced and led the Sacred Fire Opening Ceremony.

Welcome and connecting

Co-chair Marg Walker introduced herself and Co-chair, David Leyton-Brown, as well as Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans. She welcomed all to the plenary space.

Marg called on Janet MacDonald of local arrangements for orientation announcements.

David Leyton-Brown invited Karen Hilfman Millson, Worship and Theme Co-ordinator, to give an orientation to some spiritual practices and an introduction of the theme of the meeting, *Creating Connections*.

Acknowledging the Light:

The light of the following candles was acknowledged with readings from the following:

Four Directions Candles - Maya Douglas

Rainbow Candle - Lionel Ketola

Christ Candle – Children’s program kids

Oil Lamp – Partnership with Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea – Dan Benson and Jessica Stevenson

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Opening motions

**MOTION** by David Leyton-Brown/Kirsty Hunter that the following enabling motions be adopted,

- a) **Roll of the Regional Council:** that the roll of Roll of the Regional Council shall consist of:
  - All ministry personnel within the geographic bounds served by Shining Waters Regional Council (Basis of Union 6.2.1);
  - Ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call (Basis of Union 6.2.2);
  - Lay members elected by the Community of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible (Basis of Union 6.2.3);
  - Additional lay members as determined by the Regional Council if necessary, to respect a balance of ministry personal and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the Regional Council (2019 Manual C.1.2.b).
- b) **Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting:** that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be the numbered tables in the meeting space on the floor of the meeting of the Athletics Centre at Georgian College, One Georgian Drive, Barrie, ON L4M 3X9 and when in session; that the Shining Waters Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including admission and ordination to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada on Saturday May 25, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. to take place in the Athletics Centre at Georgian College, One Georgian Drive, Barrie, to fulfil its responsibility to ordain those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for ordination and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for admission, and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.
- c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda as printed and circulated be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Chairperson.
- d) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chairperson have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
- e) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings. (2019 Manual C.1.4)
- f) **New Business & Nominations:** that any Nominations for the Regional Council Executive, Commissions and Committees and items of New Business shall be given to the Chairperson before 12:30 pm on Saturday, May 25, 2019.
- g) **Naming of the Regional Council 10:** Following a process of consultation and voting, the Transitional Executive approved / agreed that Regional Council 10 be named Shining Waters Regional Council and that the Regional Council will consult with

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Indigenous Communities of Faith, within the boundaries of Region 10, to request that an additional name be provided by our Indigenous communities of faith, and that name to be used alongside the name Shining Waters.

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #1.
2. Any handouts must be authorized by the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson will present proposals. The Chairperson will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the Chairperson discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the proposal, they will invite the presenter to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.
4. At the discretion of the Chairperson, microphone time for each speaker will be limited to 1½ minutes per proposal and 1½ minutes per motion with the exception of the mover (who may speak at the beginning and end of a motion).
5. Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Chairperson in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.
6. The normal voting procedure shall be a show of hands using ballot cards, except where a secret ballot is required (ballot sheets will be provided by the Chairperson through the Regional Council office).
7. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council, General Council Elections, Reports for Information.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED.**

Introductions

Co-chair, David Leyton-Brown made a number of introductions

Greetings from Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK)

Jody Maltby read greetings from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Message from Moderator Richard Bott – video

A video message of greeting from the Moderator was shared with the meeting.

Greetings, General Council Executive

Sharon Aylsworth, a member of the Executive of General Council brought greetings.

Worship

Karen Hilfman Millson led the meeting in worship.

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Reflections by Ordinands and Admittands

The Co-chair invited Kirsty Hunter to present the candidates for ordination and admission. After each candidate addressed the council, all assembled sang one verse of a hymn significant to the candidate.

Introduction of Governance, Budget, Nominations

The Co-chair set out the timing and process of the business sessions. David Leyton-Brown introduced the governance model, reviewed the list of policies and the organization chart of the Regional Council. The meeting then met in circle groups to identify questions and suggestions for response on Saturday.

Janet MacDonald spoke to the draft budget. Charles Donnelly, President of the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) gave an update on PTCC funds in this time of transition. The meeting then met in circle groups to identify questions and suggestions for response on Saturday.

The nominations report was introduced and the meeting was reminded that nominations close at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. There have been two proposals received and 12:30 p.m. Saturday is the deadline to receive any new business.

Announcements and Grace

Karen Hilfman Millson, Janet MacDonald and Jean Ward were called on for announcements. The music group led the meeting in a sung grace.

**EVENING SESSION**

Emerging Clusters and Networks

The council was grouped in the geography of the Region for the evening session. Presentations were made on behalf of the following emerging clusters and networks: South Simcoe Shores Cluster, Intercultural and Diversity Network, North Simcoe Rural Cluster, Youth Network, North Toronto Cluster, People of Colour Network, North Brampton and Caledon Cluster, Interchurch Interfaith Network, Music United Network, and Living Into Right Relations Circle.

Worship

The worship theme was acknowledging the light within, acknowledging those who feel left out and acknowledging the cloud of witnesses. This included remembrance of congregations that had closed, and Ministry Personnel who had died in the last year,

Announcements

Gathering opportunities were outlined.

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**SATURDAY, May 25, 2019**

A sunrise service was held at the Sacred Fire.

**MORNING SESSION**

Morning worship

Jody Maltby and Karen Hilfman Millson led the opening worship on the theme, *Our Hopes and Dreams for Clusters and Networks and where we will be in Ten Years.*

Business Session

Answers to Questions on Governance, Budget and Proposals:

The questions submitted by the council on Friday were collated and Marg Walker, David Leyton-Brown and Peter Hartmans presented responses.

Presentation on Affirming and development of the Equity Policy and Committee:  
Susie Henderson presented the work on this topic.

Questions for clarification about Budget:

Janet MacDonald presented responses to the questions submitted on the draft budget.

Proposals:

Proposal #2019-01: Susan Eagle presented this proposal titled *Social and Ecological Justice Commission for Shining Waters Regional Council.* Questions and comments were taken from the floor.

Proposal #2019-02: Thelma Arnott and Jeffrey Dale presented this proposal titled, *Mental Health, Sexuality and Gender Support and Education Resources for Communities of Faith.* Questions and comments were taken from the floor.

Announcements

Jean Ward announced information and rules about Open Space Conversations.

The meeting took an all-purpose break

Open Space Conversations

An open space session was held on clusters and networks and connecting on topics chosen by the participants.

Announcements and Grace

Janet MacDonald, Karen Hilfman Millson and Jean Ward made announcements and the council was led in a sung grace.

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**AFTERNOON SESSION**

Connecting Amongst Communities of Faith

The council had opportunity for conversations in geographic areas around exploring clusters.

Announcements

Gathering opportunities were outlined.

The meeting took an all-purpose break

Celebration of Ministries Service

The inaugural meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council held a Celebration of Ministries service at Georgian College, Barrie. Co-chairs Marg Walker and David Leyton-Brown presided assisted by Executive Minister Peter Hartmans, Staff Lead Jody Maltby and Office of Vocations Minister, Marlene Britton. Maggie Dieter, Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice, delivered the message. Five people were ordained to the order of ministry: Barbara (Joy) Cowan, Dianne Everitt, Jason Meyers, Stephen Milton and Heather Stevenson, and Isaac Kamta was admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada.

The scripture reading was Matthew 5:14 – 16 which was read in English by Maggie Dieter, in Tamil by Ratna Arasaratnam, in Filipino by Jingles Ayupan, in Japanese by Eiko Hosaka, and in Icelandic by Liz Mackenzie. Katie Pergau and a choir and instrumental group made up of members of area churches and delegates, provided musical leadership. The newly ordained and admitted members of the order of ministry served Communion.

**SUNDAY, May 26, 2019**

A sunrise service was held at the Sacred Fire.

The Regional Council Youth Forum led the meeting in worship.

Ratification of Equity Policy

**MOTION** by Sharon Aylsworth/Nenke Jongkind that Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the Equity Policy as amended.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** by David Leyton-Brown/Dan Benson that Shining Waters Regional Council approve the proposed direction to establish an Equity Committee to develop an action plan.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

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**MOTION** by David Leyton-Brown/Ross Leckie that Shining Waters Regional Council join Affirm United/S' affirmer Ensemble, for an annual fee of \$100.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Ratification of Governance Document

**MOTION** by David Leyton-Brown/Paul Shepherd that Shining Waters Regional Council ratify the Shining Waters Regional Council Governance document as presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Report of the Nominations Committee and Election

Catherine Smith, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the Nominations Report, and brought a number of items to the meeting for consideration.

President:

Catherine Smith announced that David Leyton-Brown was acclaimed as President.

Members of Executive, Commissions and committees:

**MOTION** by Catherine Smith/Roberta Howey that Shining Waters Regional Council elect those listed in the Nominations Report from the Nominations Committee to serve on the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive, Commissions and committees of Shining Waters Regional Council for stated terms.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The Nominations Committee was thanked for their work, and the Co-chair thanked all who volunteered and will be offering leadership in the Region.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Proposals

**MOTION** by Marg Walker/Kirsty Hunter that proposal #2019-01 as amended, *Social and Ecological Commission for Shining Waters Regional Council*, be approved and referred to the Executive to develop a policy to be added to Shining Waters Regional Council governance structure based on the proposal, and that the Nominations committee present a nominations report to the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive to populate the Social and Ecological Commission for Shining Waters Regional Council.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

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**MOTION** by Marg Walker/Martha ter Kuile that proposal #2019-02, *Mental Health, Sexuality and Gender Support and Educational Resources for Communities of Faith* be approved and referred to the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive for action.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Budget

**MOTION** by Marg Walker/Catherine Smith that the Shining Waters Regional Council 2019 draft Budget be received for information.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Installation / Promises of the new President

Co-chair Marg Walker and Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans installed David Leyton-Brown as the new President of Shining Waters Regional Council.

Honouring of Retirees and Jubilands

Co-chair, Marg Walker, announced the ministers who are retiring: Patricia Gale-MacDonald, Colin MacDonald, Doug Norris, Malcolm Sinclair and Bryan Ransom. Retiree Bryan Ransom addressed the council and the council sang a verse of a hymn that is meaningful to him.

Honouring of Jubilands

Co-chair, David Leyton-Brown acknowledged the jubilands who were present in the meeting, and gave thanks for their ministries.

Worship and Theme

Karen Hilfman Millson led the meeting in worship, which included covenanting.

Closing of the Sacred Fire and the closing of the Regional Council meeting

The Fire Keepers shared the closing ceremony of the Sacred Fire. President David Leyton-Brown thanked the Fire Keepers for being with the council during the inaugural meeting. The President declared the meeting adjourned.

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David Leyton-Brown, Co-chair

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Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister

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Marg Walker, Co-chair