

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held June 3, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.
via video teleconference.

PRESENT: Jingle Ayupan, Pat Edmonds, Allan Holditch, Kirsty Hunter, Isaac Kamta, David Leyton-Brown, Steven Loweth, Allyce Mutungi, Moon Ja Park, Daniel Reed, Dong-Chun Seo, Martha ter Kuile,

Staff: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister) Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Kim Uyede-kai, (Communities of Faith Support), Bri-anne Swan (Social & Ecological Justice), Jeffrey Dale (Youth Ministries), Susie Henderson (Community Engagement & Partnership), Rachael Howes (Administrative Support),

REGRETS: Jessica McCrae, Jessica Stevenson
Absent: Lynn Mooney

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

David Leyton-Brown opened the meeting at 9:33 a.m. He 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.

Peter Hartmans led a brief worship focussing on racism and the prophet, Micah. He led in a prayer by Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

Members checked in.

AGENDA

MOTION by Moon Ja Park / Allan Holditch that the agenda for this meeting be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOTION by Pat Edmonds / Steven Loweth that the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held May 8, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

MOTION by Moon Ja Park / Allyce Mutungi that the Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions;

... receive the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission dated April 15, 2020 for information;

... receive the Minutes of the Pastoral Relations Commission dated April 27, 2020 for information

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... receive the Minutes of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission dated February 27, 2020 for information.

MOTION

CARRIED

Grant Approval

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Allan Holditch that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the recommendation of the Grants Review Committee and approves the release of the third phase of the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund grant to North Bramalea United Church, in the amount of \$25,000 for their *Online Ministry – Expanded Worship & Leadership Development* initiative.

MOTION

CARRIED

Update from Social & Ecological Justice Commission

Susan Eagle, Chair of the Social & Ecological Justice Commission, joined the meeting to update the Executive.

She reported that Commission started slowly, adjusting to their work, dealing with unfavourable weather and now Covid-19, which hampered meeting face-to-face, and the Commission has yet to meet in person. They are now having meetings that are more frequent via Zoom. They have an ambitious agenda as they feel they are a representative body working with Communities of Faith as much as possible. A survey was sent out in December to Communities of Faith and there were 63 responses representing 49 Communities of Faith. They are looking for more input from more Communities of Faith. They have decided not to hire someone to do survey follow-up work and the Commission will take this on themselves.

She acknowledged the staff working with the Commission including the addition of Bri-anne Swan.

Emerging themes from the surveys are in the areas of racial justice/right relations, poverty /economy, and climate crisis.

The Commission has committed to using the two lenses that the region has identified – ecological lens and racial justice lens – in doing their work. They are working on setting up an emergency response protocol so when an issue comes forward, the Commission is able to respond as quickly as possible using some guidelines, such as whether it fits with priorities, UCC polity, working with partners, etc.

The Commission is also looking beyond our region as to how we network with other groups and regions. Over the last few days, they have been looking at the issues happening in the United States.

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Once they have their priorities set, they are looking at setting up task groups or working groups, linking the Communities of Faith that are looking at those particular areas.

She acknowledged the support of all the regional council staff that has been working with the Commission

The Executive had the opportunity to ask questions. Susan Eagle then left the meeting

Intercultural Diversity Commission Proposal – *David Leyton-Brown*

David Leyton-Brown indicated that this proposal is not before the Executive today for action or acceptance. A revised version of the proposal is in the works and will come to the Executive once the full intercultural diversity circle has had a chance to discuss and reflect on it. The members of the Executive gave reactions, feedback or comments to be incorporated into the revision as appropriate.

David pointed out that there should be some recognition of areas of collaboration or identification of other partners with whom collaboration should take place, both inside and outside our church.

The Executive was encouraged to send any further thoughts or comments to Jingle Ayupan, Dong-Chun Seo, Moon-Ja Park or staff Kim Uyede-kai or Peter Hartmans.

Covid-19 Update / Regional Council Meeting Review – *Peter Hartmans*

Peter Hartmans provided an update. He met with a group of Ministry Personnel on the topic of opening church buildings; the reality is that the Premier of Ontario has extended the state of emergency to the end of June, so it doesn't look like churches will have to wrestle with that in the near future. The United Church of Canada provided a webinar on leasing and renting; our Covid-19 webpage has been updated around church openings, and includes the Social and Ecological Justice Commission letter to the Premier of Ontario. Staff created a document supporting Communities of Faith around opening and encouraged Communities of Faith to have a preparation team for the logistics of opening the church to small groups or worship when that is allowed. General Council is reconvening this month to reconsider the General Council meeting scheduled for 2021 be moved to 2022.

The Regional Council annual meeting is currently scheduled for October for three days. Staff is recommending that this meeting transition to a virtual meeting with details to be determined. The Celebration of Ministries service has been considered with input from many sources as to what online ordination would look like; Candidates were consulted as well. Staff is recommending having an online Celebration of Ministries service happen at the regional meeting.

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MOTION by Peter Hartmans / Moon Ja Park that the Shining Waters Regional Council in-person regional meeting currently scheduled for October 16 – 18 2020, be moved to an online meeting and include a Celebration of Ministries service held online.

MOTION

CARRIED

Camp Update

Jeffrey Dale joined the meeting to provide an update on camps in the region.

The four permanent camps all have decided to take a different route this summer.

Camp Simpresca has no permanent staff, so have decided to forgo having anything for this summer and will work towards 2021.

Sparrow Lake Camp has one permanent staff. They have decided to develop an online platform for connecting. In addition, Canadian Forces Base Borden is the centre for COVID 19 for the north and reached out to Sparrow Lake to use the site to host training.

Camp Scugog (dedicated to marginalized children of Toronto) brought two staff to stay on site to isolate, and they were declared an essential service; they are making masks; have identified 40 families connected to their camp that live in a food desert, and they have packed food boxes for a month for those families. The Camp has been there for the families and youth that they work with and are living out the mission of the church in this time.

Camp Big Canoe is ahead of the curve. They have spent the last three months doing all-day online camp with volunteers leading. They are heading into the summer with online camps and will do *camp in a box* which will entail registration, payment and then sending out a box of activities.

GO Project is now under Shining Waters Regional Council. They have had three months of online so are moving online for the summer. They have only hired summer staff that fits within their Canada Summer Jobs Grant money.

Camp Awesome is the regional day camp that usually travels to different churches in the region. Three staff have been hired that are specifically from the arts. They are going to do an arts-based, project-based summer program. They will put out intentional programs throughout the summer and will include workbooks.

Closing: The agenda having been completed, the meeting closed at 12:15 p.m. Peter Hartmans offered a closing prayer.

Next meeting – t.b.d.