

November 18, 2020

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Christine Smaller (Chairperson), Chris Bennett, Bronwyn Corlett, Amy Lee, Calin Lau, Kevin Logie, Sandra Nottegar, Cindy Randall, Gloria Tozek, Harry Ramsaran

Jody Maltby, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Carolyn Harding,

Welcome, check in and prayer

The chairperson welcomed everyone, and offered a particular welcome to Chris Bennett on his first attendance at a commission meeting. Kevin offered a reflection on the Book of Lamentations, noting as we move into Advent, that we may need to lament in this time of upheaval and transition as a way of allowing what's being born new in our midst to come to fruition. Christine 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.

Members checked in.

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

Agenda

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

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Bronwyn Corlett/Kevin Logie that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 21, 2020 be approved as corrected replacing the words "Psalm 155" with "a psalm".

MOTION

CARRIED

Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- approved the loan renewal of the Christian Resource Centre (Fred Victor Centre) with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) on the following terms and conditions:
Date: November 1, 2020
Amount: up to \$275,708
Amortization: 16 years
Term: 3 years
Interest: the Bank of Nova Scotia 3-year mortgage rate or 4%, whichever is the higher, for the term as of the renewal date.
Payments: monthly principal and interest
Provision: payment of renewal administration fee (\$689.27)
Approval: Shining Waters Regional Council
Security: revision to promissory note if required
Source: Investing in Ministry Fund.
- approved the lease agreement between Northlea United Church, Toronto, and Maria Montessori School Inc. dated November 4, 2020.

Bronwyn Corlett was added to the Task Group on governance.

Saint Luke's Intentional Interim Ministry

MOTION by Kevin Logie/Calin Lau that, upon the recommendation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee, the Communities of Faith Commission approves the request for an extension of the Intentional Interim Ministry at Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto, to August 31, 2022, based on Saint Luke's Transition Team's Report which their Council fully supports; and further that the Pastoral Relations Commission be requested to extend the appointment of Rev. Jim Keenan by one year as the Interim Minister at Saint Luke's.

MOTION

CARRIED

Collaborative Handbook

Cindy Randall reported on the work that is being doing with Islay Scott. Diane Matheson and Cindy will continue to do more editing and it will hopefully come to December meeting of the commission.

Wise Speakers

Christine Smaller provided some history of the commission for new members. We have been writing policy as we go to be able to address requests from communities of faith in a

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timely manner, with intentional commitment that we would be reviewing and revising policy using an equity lens and recognizing opportunities to do things in a very different way that would serve justice, equity, accessibility. We also need to weave innovation into our policies as we have been working on that extensively over the past year.

Christine reviewed the equity goals for the commission and in particular the need for wise speakers to inform our policy work.

The commission agreed by consensus to allocate a budget of \$500 for 15 hours of work by Michiko Kai-Bowen to put together a roster of speakers that will meet our need.

The commission engaged in further discussion about how we might support communities of faith to reach a baseline for equity and inclusion.

Mapping Project

Jody Maltby provided an update on the mapping project. We can expect a draft report in December and a full report for the commission by the end of January 2021.

South West Community Ministries

Jody Maltby reported on a letter received from the Board of the South West Community Ministries (Jane Finch and Davenport Perth). Chris Bennett, Harry Ramsaran, and Jody and will meet with the Board of the South West Community Ministries for conversation. (Note: Amy Lee also offered to participate but subsequent to the meeting she withdrew due to her role with Davenport Perth United Church).

Closing: Bronwyn Corlett offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2020, 2020, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.