

December 16, 2020

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

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

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Kim Uyede-Kai, Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Regrets: Bronwyn Corlett

Guests: Islay Scott

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. She opened in prayer. The commission welcomed Islay Scott to the meeting.

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 presented.

MOTION

CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Harry Ramsaran/Gloria Tozek that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 18, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION

CARRIED

Email votes

The following decisions were made by email:

- East End United Church, Toronto lease agreements
Awaiting legal advice regarding the lease agreements between East End United Regional Ministry and Riverdale Activity Centre, Matthew and Guillermo, and Strickland Reading Clinics.
- Collier St United Church, Barrie governance document
Approved the revised Constitution of Collier Street United Church, Barrie, dated January 1, 2021.
- Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto loan agreement
Approved the request of Dewi Sant United Church for a loan from the TSEP-MCF in the amount of up to \$135,000 to be secured against the Dewi Sant church building situated on Melrose Ave.

Collaboration Handbook – Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Islay Scott, Cindy Randall
Diane expressed thanks to Islay, Cindy, Gloria Tozek and Karen Hilfman Millson. Islay provided some of the history of the handbook which was developed through working with churches.

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Collaboration Handbook for use in Shining Waters Regional Council with thanks to all who worked on it.

MOTION

CARRIED

Update on Mapping Process – Jody Maltby

We have received the draft report and will receive the final report in January. Kevin Logie agreed to have a conversation with Sharon Buttrey from EDGE and Susie Henderson to help shape a process for the commission to engage the data provided.

Update on Wise Speakers – Christine Smaller

Christine reported that she is continuing to work with Michiko Kai-Bowen to develop list of speakers.

Thoughts on policy – Chris Bennett

Chris provided a helpful reflection on policy management. He highlighted the importance of coherence in policies, trust and compliance, and accountability and effectiveness of commissions and regional staff. Clear policies are easier to apply and evaluate and build trust between communities of faith and the region.

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Every policy should have a purpose and if the purpose is no longer relevant the policy should be removed. Is the policy meeting the need that drove the development of the policy? If not, have we identified the need correctly and do we have the right tools to address the need?

The slide deck for the presentation will be circulated with these minutes. The commission will continue to evaluate and refine policies.

Update on South West Community Ministries – Chris Bennet, Harry Ramsaran, Jody Maltby

Jody, Harry and Chris reflected on their meeting with the Board of the two community ministries. The commission will continue to have conversations with them over the next months.

Huttonville United Church, Brampton – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

MOTION by Amy Lee/Kevin Logie that in accordance with The Manual (2019) section G.1.5.2, the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council assumes financial responsibility for the building as of December 21, 2020 and approves the request of Huttonville United Church to disband the pastoral charge as a recognized community of faith effective January 15, 2021 with thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation and names Christine Smaller, Jody Maltby, Janet MacDonald, Ken Woolley and Alex Watson as the Board of Trustees until all decisions are made regarding property.

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission wishes to reflect on how we might better acknowledge and celebrate the rich histories of congregations when they close.

Requests to Sell Property – Jody Maltby

Request from Huttonville United Church, Brampton for approval to sell their building, using Daryl Ruff of Exit Realty Hare Peel, with 10% of the proceeds from the sale to go to St. Andrew United Church in Georgetown (as per email of December 13, 2020 from Trustees).

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar/Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council does not approve the request of Huttonville United Church, Brampton, to sell their building.

MOTION

CARRIED

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Amy Lee that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council instruct Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) to act on behalf of Shining Waters Regional Council in the sale of the building that currently houses Huttonville United Church and that 10% of the proceeds from the sale, when it happens, will go to St. Andrew United Church in Georgetown.

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission will advise the congregation that we will provide the name of their proposed real estate agent for consideration.

Request from Dewi Sant United Church, Toronto to sell their property in anticipation of amalgamation with another congregation. (as per letter of December 14, 2020)

MOTION by Chris Bennett/Amy Lee that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council does not approve the request of Dewi Sant United Church, Toronto, to sell their property in anticipation of amalgamation with another congregation.

MOTION

CARRIED

MOTION by Amy Lee/Sandra Nottegar that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council ask the United Property Resource Corporation to make a recommendation on the best use of the building that currently houses the congregation of Dewi Sant United Church to provide resources for a potential newly amalgamated congregation which will include an intentional Welsh ministry, while also supporting ministry in the wider United Church.

MOTION

CARRIED

The commission will advise the congregation that when they are ready to enter an amalgamation that they come to the region to discuss their property needs; that we understand the desire to preserve an intentional Welsh ministry within Shining Waters Regional Council

Trustees, Automatic Regional Appointments – Jody Maltby

MOTION by Gloria Tozek/Chris Bennett that if a pastoral charge closes without naming a Board of Trustees to deal with remaining property, the chair of the Communities of Faith Commission, the Staff Lead and the Finance Administrator are automatically trustees.

MOTION

CARRIED

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MOTION by Kevin Logie/Calin Lau that in accordance with The Manual (2019) section G.3.3.4c, if a congregation finds themselves with only one or two trustees or without any trustees for any reason, the chair of the Communities of Faith Commission, the Staff Lead and the Finance Administrator are automatically trustees and will serve along with the remaining trustees until the full number of trustees has been appointed.

MOTION

CARRIED

Taiwanese United Church of Toronto – Jody Maltby

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Amy Lee that under section C.2.3.g) of the Manual, given that the Taiwanese United Church of Toronto is unable to meet due to concerns around Covid-19, that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council appoint Lloyd Mather, Lyle Urquhart as directors from February 11, 2020 through December 31, 2020 with authority to sign cheques, Janet MacDonald as director from February 11, 2020 through December 31, 2021 with authority to sign cheques, and Rachael Howes as director from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with authority to sign cheques and that Jody Maltby have authority to sign cheques in her capacity as pastoral charge supervisor.

MOTION

CARRIED

Chris Bennett declared a familial relationship prior to the vote.

GS 81 Extension of Temporary Amendment of Bylaws re: Pastoral Relations; Temporary Amendment re: Congregational Annual Meeting – Jody Maltby

At its meeting on November 26, 2020, the Sub-Executive of the General Council passed a motion to:

- temporarily suspend the requirement in section B.5.1 of The Manual for congregations or pastoral charges to hold an annual meeting; and
- temporarily amend the responsibility of the congregation or pastoral charge to make a decision on their annual draft budget by allowing the governing body of the congregation or pastoral charge to fulfil this responsibility where necessary, and where permitted by the regional council;

with each of the foregoing to be in effect until June 30, 2021, subject to earlier cancellation or further extension by decision of the Executive or Sub-Executive of the General Council.

MOTION by Cindy Randall/Chris Bennett, that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council permits congregations or pastoral charges in Shining Waters Region to allow the governing body of the

congregation or pastoral charge to make a decision on their annual draft budget, and that this permission is in effect until June 30, 2021.

MOTION

CARRIED

Request to have Emmanuel College as a Regional Recognized Ministry.

The commission authorizes staff to engage in conversation with Emmanuel College about becoming a regional recognized ministry.

Terms of Reference for the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee

MOTION by Chris Bennett/Kevin Logie that the terms of reference for the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee be updated so that membership is open to any lay member with experience in interim ministry and/or Human Resources management skills, crises management, transition and other transferable skills and open to any ministry personnel who is an Intentional Interim Minister and/or has experience and skills that would be helpful for the committee.

MOTION

CARRIED

Request from West Hill United Church, Toronto regarding disposition of funds from sale of property

The commission discussed the request from West Hill United Church. In principle, the commission wants to be supportive of congregations doing innovative work.

Chris Bennett and Jody Maltby will have a conversation with representatives from West Hill in the new year to gain better understanding of the request.

Staff will look for templates for plans for the disposition of funds from the sale of property.

Closing: The chair offered thanks to the members and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Cindy Randall offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2021, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.