

February 17, 2021

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 by video conference call. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:**

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

Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Susie Henderson, Kim Uyede-kai, Diane Matheson, Jeffrey Dale

**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 offered opening worship based on Ash Wednesday.

Members checked in.

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

**Agenda**

**MOTION** by Amy Lee/Harry Ramsaran that the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Minutes**

**MOTION** by Cindy Randall/Kevin Logie that the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated December 16, 2020 be approved as circulated.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Email votes**

The following decisions were made by email:

- East End United Church, Toronto lease agreements

Approved the three lease agreements between East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, and Riverdale Activity Centre, Matthew and Guillermo, and Strickland Reading Clinics.

Approved the lease agreement between East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, and the City of Toronto

- Dewi Sant, Toronto – request to sell property  
Approved the motion to reconsider the motion of December 16, 2020 “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.”

Defeated the original motion of December 16, 2020: “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.”

Approved a new motion that the Communities of Faith Commission postpone discussion and decision on the request from Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto, until a recommendation is received from the United Property Resource Corporation.

- Runnymede United Church, Toronto – amended Constitution  
Approved the amended Constitution of Runnymede United Church dated February 7, 2021.

### **Election of new chairperson**

Christine Smaller advised that she will be leaving the region which opens up the need for a new chairperson. The commission discussed the process for electing a new chairperson and deferred the decision to later in the meeting to allow folks to discern if they wished to put their name forward.

At the next meeting, the commission will consider electing a vice-chair and setting a term for both positions.

### **Mapping Process – *Kevin Logie, Susie Henderson***

Kevin and Susie reported that they are conscious of the impact of Covid and the need to proceed slowly and with care as we don’t know exactly what the future will bring for local congregations. We are committed to maintaining a United Church presence.

They proposed a steering group representing various parts of the region to sit and work with what Edge has given. We hope to hold an in-person gathering to reflect together.

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Susie shared three maps so the commission could start to get a sense of the data that is available.

Commission members were asked to consider who might be appropriate to serve on a steering committee and to approach the other commissions for members. Chris Bennett expressed willingness to participate.

### **Priorities Conversation** – *Christine Smaller and Gloria Tozek*

Gloria and Christine shared thoughts from the conversation about priorities. The Mapping Process could be linked to this because several of the commissions spoke to the need for research.

Priorities included equity, inclusion, racism. There is a need for both core funding and funds for developments for different ministries.

Several people spoke about the importance of cross commission communication and working together to support each other and reduce duplication of effort.

There was lament that the church as an institution remains inherently racist and structure continues to be oppressive.

The Commission took a 15-minute break

### **Election of New Chairperson** (cont'd)

**MOTION** by Carolyn Harding / Cindy Randall that Gloria Tozek be acclaimed as the chairperson of the Communities of Faith Commission.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The commission agreed to hold off approving vice-chair pending establishing a term. Chris Bennett expressed willingness to be considered for vice-chair.

### **Preaching Conference** – *Kim Uyede-kai and Jeffrey Dale*

Kim and Jeffrey reported on a preaching conference that has been organized by Dr. Hye Ran Kim-Cragg to take place virtually August 20-21<sup>st</sup> with a particular focus on what the pandemic has taught us about preaching. Kim and Jeffrey will both be workshop facilitators. The region has been invited to co-sponsor the event. At this point we don't know exactly what that looks like other than lending our name to the event. If we are invited to participate in other ways, we can consider whether that is appropriate but it doesn't prevent us from lending our name to the event, which is a positive step in strengthening our relationship with Emmanuel College.

**MOTION** by Sandra Nottegar/Cindy Randall that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council agrees to co-sponsor the Preaching Event on August 20- 21, 2021 with Emmanuel College.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

## Updates

### Innovation Cluster

Diane Matheson reported that the innovation clusters have continued over the fall. Out of clusters across the country EDGE is cosponsoring an event: The Hopeful Economics UnConference focusing on social innovation, trends in the charitable sector and systemic change issues.

### Thriving Churches webinar

Several people participated in a series of webinars with Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd and Tammy Allen looking at their new book, *Thriving Churches*. From their research with a number of congregations, they lifted up several spiritual attributes that could inform our conversation about innovative ministry. Their research included both large and small, urban and rural congregations which broadens the traditional picture of a thriving church.

### Digital Ministry/TUCC

Susie Henderson reported.

### Intentional Interim Ministry Appointments

Diane Matheson reported that across the country there are IIMs not actively serving and that this presents an opportunity for us to tap into a wider network of qualified Intentional Interim Ministers to better serve the communities of faith in our region

### Website updates

Commission members are encouraged to visit the website to see the resources that have been added for congregations.

### Recent Executive decisions

Jody Maltby reported on recent decisions by the Executive to sell one property and partner with the United Property Resource Corporation in exploring the development of others to provide a long-term sustainable income for the region while maintaining significant property resources.

Staff provided updates on work with Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto, St. Andrew's United Church, Markham, and the South West Community Ministries. Plans are moving forward in the sale of the building that housed Huttonville United Church, Brampton. Of particular note, the Ministère Protestant Francophone du Toronto, in partnership with both Shining Waters Region and La Table des ministères en français, is planning a covenanting service on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

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**Policy Updates**

Jody Maltby reviewed two small changes to the Finance and Property Policy and one to the Policy regarding Sale of Property by an Existing Community of Faith. These came out of the meeting of the commission in December and the experience of the Lease Review Task Group. She noted that the commission still needs to engage in a more fulsome review of the policies but these updates will help provide greater clarity in the meantime.

**MOTION** by Amy Lee/Kevin Logie that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Finance and Property Policy and the Policy regarding Sale of Property by an Existing Community of Faith as revised.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

**Closing:** Christine Smaller offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m. via video conference

